

PKK given Saturday deadline

LAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Separatist Turkish Kurds have been given all Saturday to accept terms set by the Iraqi Kurdish assembly to get out of Iraq or face renewed military assault. "Tomorrow is the deadline," said Kurdish Democratic Party leader Masoud Barzani. He said military operations would resume if the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) did not accept terms dictated by Iraqi Kurds. Mr. Barzani said Osama Ocalan, the brother of PKK leader Abdullah "Apo" Ocalan, had gone to consult with his brother following talks in Erbil with Iraqi Kurdish officials. "Ocalan has no authority to sign (the pact). There is only one man," said Mr. Barzani, whose Peshmerga forces aid those of a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan have been fighting to push the PKK out of northern Iraq for nearly a month. Operations have been halted several times to allow the rebels the chance to withdraw from Iraqi Kurdistan, and as a platform for their attacks against Turkish government targets. Turkey says it has 20,000 troops backed by tanks and planes in northern Iraq but Mr. Barzani said the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga and the Turks are not carrying out joint operations. The terms set out by the Iraqi Kurdish assembly are believed to allow the Turkish Kurds to withdraw to air bases with their weapons if they agreed not to use Iraqi Kurdistan.

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Earthquake injures in Morocco

IAT (R) — An earthquake in a semi-desert area of east-Morocco Friday injured 45 people, five of them seriously, official news agency MAP reported. Ten houses and some collapsed. The agency reported casualties in the oases of Tad and Rissani in Errachidia province, 320 kilometres south of Rabat. It said the quake struck at 1143 GMT and measured 5.4 on the open-ended Richter scale enough to cause extensive damage if it had hit cities. Centre of the three-second quake was between Rissani and Tad oases. It was felt as far as 300 kilometres across the desert in Algeria. Two people killed and 20 injured a week ago by a quake in the same area.

Human rights league delays resumption

IIS (R) — Tunisia's human rights league, legally dissolved in 1989, has decided to postpone its resumption of work until further notice. The league, founded in 1989, has been independent and prominent leaders. "The league is postponed until further notice," the Tunisian League for Defence of Human Rights (LDH) said in a statement on Friday after two days of leadership meetings. According to LDH activists, independent and government LDH leaders are odds over whether current man Moncef Marzouki, deposed as a thorn in the government's side, should seek a new role. The league, founded 15 years ago, is the oldest and one of the most active humanitarian organisations in the Arab World.

Many protests to in Rushdie row

N (R) — Germany has protested to Iran's ambassador here about the "outrageous" opposition to the death sentence passed on the Iranian author Salman Rushdie. A spokesman said Friday that Iran's embassy issued a statement after the protest demanding Islamic death sentences for anyone who blasphemes against the prophet Muhammad. "This week, we felt that some of the obstacles that stood in the way of progress towards agreement on such a document of principles were lifted," Mr. Rabinovich said in an interview with Israel Television.



Muwaffak Al Alass, head of the Syrian delegation to peace talks with Israel, speaks at a joint press conference Thursday as his counterparts Abdul Salam Majalli of Jordan (left), Haidar Abdul Shafi of Palestine and Suhail Shammaas of Lebanon listen (AFP photo)

Israel upbeat, Arabs see little progress as bilaterals recess

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI TOP peace negotiator with Syria on Friday was upbeat about the latest round of talks, saying the two sides have come closer to agreeing on key principles.

The assessment by Itamar Rabinovich contrasted sharply with that of his Syrian counterpart, Muwaffak Al Alass, who complained that "only minimal progress was achieved in the negotiations that opened a year ago."

The Washington talks went into recess Thursday until Nov. 9, six days after the U.S. presidential election.

Despite a fresh cycle of violence in the region, Israel and Syria made progress towards writing a joint document of principles, a step towards a peace treaty, Mr. Rabinovich said.

"This week, we felt that some of the obstacles that stood in the way of progress towards agreement on such a document of principles were lifted," Mr. Rabinovich said.

Israeli settler dies of wounds sustained in Jenin attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli settler who was shot and wounded by unknown assailants three days ago as he shopped at a market near the occupied West Bank town of Jenin died Friday, officials of Rambam hospital in Haifa said.

The death of Motti Biton brought to five the number of Israelis killed this month in attacks by Palestinians or unknown men.

Since the start of the Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation, Palestinians have killed 102 Israelis. Israelis have killed 946 Palestinians.

The spate of fatal attacks on Israelis in recent weeks has sparked right-wing, anti-

government demonstrations and riots. The government has blamed the incidents on Muslim fundamentalist and leftist Arab groups opposed to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

Four men opened fire on Biton Tuesday when he stopped at a grocery store in Jenin, reportedly to buy olive oil. The town has been a centre of anti-Israeli activity in the nearly five-year Palestinian uprising.

Biton's wife, Molly, opened fire on the fleeing assailants, wounding one of them.

The army Wednesday, cracked down and arrested the wounded suspect, the radio said.

The Biton family lives in the Jewish settlement of Gannim East of Jenin.

Conscientious objectors work against 'death squads'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A group of conscientious objectors began handing out pamphlets to high school seniors Friday urging them not to volunteer for army undercover units operating in the occupied territories.

The action by Yesh Gvul, Hebrew for "there's a limit," drew immediate fire from hardline Israeli politicians and elicited an unusually harsh reaction from the army spokesman's office.

Members of Yesh Gvul said they would distribute their 14-page booklet on the undercover units outside schools throughout the country.

Army service in Israel is mandatory, but recruits volunteer for special units, which range from paratroopers to frogmen and commandos.

The booklet questions the morality and legality of the squads.

"All they have had are glorified accounts that makes them out to be elite and something special and heroic," Peretz Kidron, a Yesh Gvul spokesman, told the Associated Press. "Some of their actions are very dubious legally and morally."

Members of the squads, which have been operating since late 1988, often disguise themselves as Arabs or other civilians and infiltrate villages in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Their goal is to ferret out Palestinian activists. At least 90 Palestinians have been killed by the squads, according to B'tselem, an Israeli human rights group that monitors the West Bank and Gaza. Some have shot

Hassan II ends Mideast visit seen as major step towards better Arab ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

KING HASSAN II of Morocco flew home from Cairo Friday, ending a five-country Middle East visit aimed at healing inter-Arab rifts and giving impetus to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Moroccan leader, who paid a visit to Jordan Wednesday, was pursuing a call for an Arab summit where heads of Arab states at odds with each other since the Gulf crisis could get together and sort out their differences, Arab diplomatic sources said in Amman.

Although the Arab summit proposal did not materialise, King Hassan's efforts could not be described as a failure, as suggested in media analyses of the monarch's swing through the Middle East, said the sources.

"After all the summit was an idea and the gathering could be convened at a later stage," said one of the sources. "The most important thing is that certain solid steps were taken towards the ultimate objective of closing ranks at a time when the Arab World is passing through a most critical stage."

According to diplomats who spoke to the Jordan Times on

condition of anonymity, King Hassan wanted to arrange a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Tabouk, where the Moroccan monarch had set up camp during his stay in the Middle East. However, the effort did not materialise. Some reports said the Saudis insisted on "certain preconditions" for such a summit. Jordanian officials denied the reports.

King Hassan began his visit in Saudi Arabia and returned there every evening, triggering speculation that he was on a shuttle diplomacy. But, a source explained, the king had found it more convenient to operate out of a palace in Tabouk rather than spending the night in the capitals he was visiting.

Apart from Egypt, which concluded a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and established diplomatic relations the following year, Morocco is the only Arab state that has had open contacts with Israel.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt saw King Hassan off at Cairo international airport, the official Middle East News agency said. The two leaders met privately at the Kubba guest palace

Arafat calls for U.N. observers

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Friday peace talks with Israel were blocked a year after they began and called for U.N. observers in the occupied territories. "It is important for the United Nations to play an active role with international supervision of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly after the end of the period previously decided for the negotiations," the Palestinian news agency WAFA quoted him as saying. Mr. Arafat was speaking as he handed the Japanese ambassador to Tunis a letter to the Japanese government urging it to play a role in the Middle East peace process. Under the formula announced by the co-sponsors, Washington and Moscow, when the peace process started in Madrid on Oct. 30 last year, Israelis and Palestinians should reach agreement on self-rule in the occupied territories by November 1st this year. Mr. Arafat said the U.N. should now send a representative of the secretary general and international observers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 681 and 726, to protect the Palestinians living under Israel's occupation.



King Hassan II

immediately after the monarch's arrival earlier Friday, and continued talks over lunch.

Egypt was the final stop of a tour that took King Hassan to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Syria.

An official statement issued Wednesday after talks in Amman between King Hassan and King Hussein of Jordan said the two monarchs stressed that reconciliation among the Arabs is necessary "to give impetus to the Mid-

die East peace process." King Hassan's tour coincided with the seventh round of Israeli-Arab peace negotiations in Washington. The talks recessed Thursday and will resume after next week's presidential elections in the United States.

"The (Arab) negotiators badly need Arab solidarity and they want to feel that there is absolute Arab political and moral support for them," Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Al Filali, who was accompanying King Hassan, told reporters in Amman.

Arab diplomats in the region said the king's quick forays to four Arab capitals from Tabouk were not completely wasted.

"He did not pull a rabbit out of a hat. But he seems to have laid the groundwork for a reconciliation," one diplomat said.

The diplomats said King Hassan had hoped to bring King Hussein and King Fahd together in Tabouk, possibly also with the leaders of other Arab states he was visiting: Syria, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

But the key was a Saudi-Jordanian reconciliation.

King Hassan had made some

(Continued on page 5)

Arabs say contact with Israel over development is premature

PARIS (Agencies) — Arab states, talking to Israel for the first time about economic development, said Thursday they would keep the Israelis at arm's length until a comprehensive Middle East settlement was in view.

Israeli official Uri Savir played down the rejection, saying: "You can't expect to change the face of the Middle East in 48 hours... a few years ago, the very idea of this meeting with 14 Arab delegations was only a dream."

"It would be an error to go faster than our neighbours want and we can progress through third parties," Mr. Savir said.

Fayez Tarawneh, head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said the Arab delegations agreed not to take part in projects entailing direct contact with Israelis until the Jewish state withdrew from occupied territories.

"We cannot make any contact with the Israelis with the Arab lands occupied and the people under siege," he said (see page 3).

Dr. Tarawneh, a former Jordanian cabinet minister, said the Arabs would accept project studies on both sides of ceasefire lines by neutral bodies such as the United Nations or the European Community (EC).

Israel asked for an end to economic boycotts and arms build-ups in the Middle East at the opening Thursday of the talks between some 40 Arab delegations on economic development in the region.

The first of two days of closed-door meetings touched on communications, water resources and tourism, as well as a possible Middle East reconstruction bank.

The meeting comes under the framework of the Middle East peace talks that opened in Madrid a year ago. The bilateral negotiations are currently being held in Washington, adjourned until Nov. 9, after the U.S. presidential election.

Dr. Savir said he doubted there would be any immediate results from the conference, but noted for the first time, Arab and Israeli negotiators were talking of "regional" instead of "national" interests.

The Palestinians, in a statement to the group, reaffirmed its call for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation in the peace process and "correction" of its representation to allow Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the diaspora in all working groups. It also asked for

Israel, Hizbollah exchange threats

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israel and resistance forces in Lebanon traded threats Friday after 13 civilians, soldiers and guerrillas were killed in the worst flare-up in nine months.

With Israeli tanks and troops poised on Israel's border with Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said guerrillas would renew rocket attacks if the south was hammered by air raids and bombardments.

The threat by Sheikh Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Lebanon's Hizbollah, followed Uri Lubrani, Israel's chief peace negotiator, warning that Israel would allow nothing to endanger its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel promised to exact revenge if Hizbollah guerrillas fired more Katyusha rockets after a 14-year-old immigrant boy was killed in northern Israel Tuesday.

"The resistance doesn't believe the way to confront Israel is firing Katyushas but when thousands of rockets are fired at us it's our right to some kind of self defence," Sheikh Fadlallah said in Beirut.

Katyushas slammed into northern Israel and the "security zone," where a Lebanese teacher

and his baby boy were killed, after Israel fired more than 700 tank and artillery shells and launched a series of air raids on guerrilla targets in Lebanon.

Israel said the shelling and air strikes were in retaliation for the killing of five Israeli soldiers in a Hizbollah bomb ambush inside the "security zone" last Sunday.

A total of 13 people were killed in the shelling, air raids, rocket attacks and the bombing between Sunday and Tuesday.

"Israel must understand that when one of our civilians is killed by its rockets, then a Jewish civilian must be killed by our rockets," Sheikh Fadlallah said.

"We don't want to kill children or women there. We don't want to kill civilians but the issue is that they won't end the madness of their shelling unless we respond."

Speaking to reporters during a tour of the 15-kilometre-deep "security zone" earlier Friday, Mr. Lubrani said Israel would try to make progress at Middle East peace talks in Washington.

"But here on the ground we will do whatever is necessary to secure peace on both sides of the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqi diplomat to head U.N. Somalia operation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Ismat Kittani, an Iraqi diplomat once chosen president of the General Assembly by the toss of a coin, has been named to be the new U.N. special representative in famine-stricken Somalia.

He will succeed Mohammed Sahnoun, an Algerian, who resigned after being rebuked by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for saying publicly the United Nations had been too slow in reacting to the tragedy threatening up to two million people with starvation.

Dr. Ghali announced his choice of Mr. Kittani in a letter to Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France which praised Mr. Sahnoun and expressed regret at his departure.

The secretary-general said that, to avoid any interruption in the important responsibilities entrusted to him by the council, he had asked Mr. Kittani to take over Mr. Sahnoun's duties as his special representative in Somalia.

The letter, written in French, noted that Mr. Kittani, 63, was a former president of the U.N. General Assembly and a former U.N. under-secretary-general.

Mr. Kittani, who has also held senior posts as an Iraqi diplomat, was elected to the prized post of General Assembly President in

1981. He and a Bangladeshi candidate obtained the same number of votes in a secret ballot and Mr. Kittani was declared the winner through the toss of a coin.

In the mid-1980s Mr. Kittani was Iraq's U.N. representative, and previously served as chief of staff to then-U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

From 1975 to 1980 he headed the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organisation Affairs.

Mr. Kittani, an Iraqi Kurd, obtained a bachelor of arts degree in political science and English from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, in 1951 and is an avid baseball fan.

In Mogadishu, with tears in his eyes, Mr. Sahnoun announced his resignation at a news conference and then boarded a U.N. plane for Paris.

His departure is seen by many as a setback in the international effort to alleviate suffering in Somalia, where drought and clan warfare threaten up to two million lives.

At the news conference before his departure, Mr. Sahnoun acknowledged he may have stepped on some toes when he criticised the U.N. response to the Somali catastrophe as slow.

Iraqi dissidents choose anti-Saddam leaders

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Iraqi opposition groups, winding up four days of talks on how to topple Saddam Hussein, chose today to the task Friday of choosing a leadership.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), the largest gathering of opposition leaders to meet on Iraqi soil, has already endorsed plans for post-Saddam Iraq to become a federation and is working out the fine print of a draft constitution.

Tipped for leadership positions are Masoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party, Hassan Nagib, a former army general based in Syria, and Mohammad Bagh Al Aloun, one of the Iraqi opposition leaders feted in Washington earlier this year.

"Some of the Shiite groups would like to see a five- or seven-man 'presidency' but I think it will end up at three," said a conference source.

A 25-member executive council was also to be appointed. Some local residents and observers at this mountain resort in northern Iraq, declared a safe haven by the allied troops which defeated Iraq in the Gulf war, doubted that the opposition had enough clout to oust President Saddam and his hierarchy.

"I think this opposition is a

mosquito compared to the elephant," trader Moayyad Khoshnaw said. "Most of the opposition groups, with the exception of Da'wa in the south, do not have any popular support in Iraq."

But participants thought the conference had been a success. Mr. Barzani described it as a "victory for all Iraqis."

Nationalist Salah Al Sheikhly said the unifying aim of the various opposition groups was to end President Saddam's rule.

"We have to present an alternative form of government, diametrically opposed to the present system. It must work for a multi-party system and be liberal in both approach and thinking," Mr. Sheikhly told reporters.

He said there must be a peaceful transition of power in Iraq once President Saddam was overthrown, a point reinforced by Mr. Aloun who appealed for peace in post-Saddam Iraq: "There must not be bloodshed after the removal of Saddam."

The INC's human rights charter calls for a war-crimes trial for President Saddam and some of his chief aides and an amnesty for Iraqis who work for the present government.

led in shooting Algerian train

ERS (R) — Security forces said a wanted Muslim fundamentalist in an Algerian train shot for a gendarme's gun, a passenger for the paramilitary aid on Friday. A Passenger same apartment was said. Gendarmes, hunting for a wanted Muslim fundamentalist, were checking identities on Thursday, the train told the official news AFS. The passengers in Tamassoudt, Benyoucef, was suspected of an n which a gendarme was "He refused to obey gendarmes ... in one of the armaments when it stopped Defia, and tried to disarm arm," the APS report said Benyoucef belonged outlawed Islamic Salvation ad to Tekfir Al Hijra, a group.

Arabs and Israelis fully engaged in peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — All of the parties to the Arab-Israeli peace talks are fully engaged on the core issues of the negotiations — land, peace, and security — and have made progress in the first half of their seventh round of direct talks, a top State Department official declared Thursday.

Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told a news briefing that the talks, which recessed Wednesday for the U.S. presidential elections, had been serious and substantive. The direct negotiations are to resume here in Washington on Nov. 9.

The talks involve separate negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Israeli and Palestinian representatives are also negotiating interim self-government arrangements for the occupied territories.

Offering an assessment of the talks from what he called the "objective and balanced perspective" of their sponsor, Mr. Djerejian pointed out that there were no negotiations of any kind underway only a year ago.

"This is a serious, substantive process of negotiations," he said. "In each track, there is real engagement and focus on the right issues. In each track, the parties have organized themselves in the right way. In each track, the parties have approached the talks with the right attitude; that is not a blind commitment to the process, but one that is focused on solving specific problems, both procedural and substantive."

Mr. Djerejian said this round has also "survived extreme violence and rhetoric and the efforts of extremists, such as Hizballah, to sabotage it," pointing to recent bomb attacks and retaliatory raids in Lebanon.

He acknowledged those actions "created stresses" in the Washington talks. "But the parties overcame them by continuing

and not playing into the hands of those extremists opposed to peace," he said. "The first part of the seventh round reflects the spirit of real commitment and pragmatism even in the face of violence in Lebanon and the occupied territories."

Mr. Djerejian offered the following capsule assessments of each track of the Middle East peace process:

— On the Israeli-Palestinian track: The two sides have decided to meet in informal subgroups in order to focus on the key issues of self-government. "This is structured, serious engagement on tough issues, such as the jurisdiction of the elected interim self-government authority and the nature of its powers," he said. "They are discussing a timetable which could see an elected interim self-government authority in place as early as the spring of 1993. We think that both sides should seize this opportunity."

— On the Israeli-Syrian track: The parties are now addressing some of the most sensitive issues in these negotiations. The Israelis brought reformulations of key issues during the seventh round, including a formulation on withdrawal. The Syrians and Israelis continue to work seriously toward a common set of understandings on which to base negotiations. They are talking about land, peace and security and working out the relationship between them.

— On the Israeli-Lebanese track: This track was really challenged by the situation in Lebanon which distracted the parties from pursuing some new approaches. To their credit, Israelis and Lebanese managed to remain engaged and preserve the substance of their earlier discussions, so hopefully they can build on it next month when the negotiations reconvene. They are also discussing the possibility of having military experts from both sides participate in their respective delegations in the plenary talks.

— On the Israeli-Jordanian track: The Israelis and Jordanians made real and serious progress in their discussions and are very close to a final agreement on an agenda. It represents substantial agreement by the negotiators, and direction on how to resolve differences in the talks. They are now ready to delve into substance on these key issues when they return.

"The work that the Israelis and the Jordanians have accomplished during this round should inspire all parties to do the same thing," Mr. Djerejian said.

"The steady and sure commitment of all the negotiating parties to remain engaged and to make real progress, despite the obstacles," he said, "is indeed a very positive sign."

He said the United States is "deeply, actively involved" in the direct, bilateral talks among the parties.

"All the parties talk with us all the time and we debate, discuss and suggest how to overcome problems. We have helped to bridge a significant number of procedural and substantive problems even though we won't discuss them in public," he said. "These contacts are very frequent and quite frankly they don't end when a round ends or terminates in Washington. They continue in the interim period between rounds," he added.

"We will be working very closely with the parties to assure that every effort is made, to not only keep the momentum going...," Mr. Djerejian declared. Later, a senior U.S. official told reporters that in the Middle East, "standing still can be a formula for going backwards. And therefore this negotiating process must be fully supported and the momentum must be maintained."

Asked what specific action the United States should take to move the talks forward, Dr. Abdul Shafi said the United States could "play a decisive role" in stopping continued settlement activity in the occupied territories.

Noting that the one-year anniversary of the peace talks has been reached without an agreement on the terms of a Palestinian interim self-governing authority, Dr. Abdul Shafi called for a new time-frame for the negotiations.

"I think we are in need of a new timetable because we can't see ourselves participating in an open-ended negotiating process," he said.

The seventh round of negotiations is scheduled to continue until Nov. 20. The delegations will take an 11-day recess for consultations beginning Thursday.

Syria's Allaf said "minimal" progress has been achieved during the past year. He said the lack of progress would affect the credibility of the peace process.

He blamed the lack of progress on the Israeli refusal to commit "themselves to the withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, as required in Resolution 242 and Resolution 425."

Mr. Allaf said Syria and Israel have conducted "business-like" discussions of the core issues. However, he added, "discussing without reaching a result or a progress can be accepted for only a while."

On security issues, Mr. Allaf said "whatever security arrange-

ments agreed upon between the two sides should be subject to the condition that it not affect the rights, territorial integrity, and the security of the other side."

Security "should be reciprocal" and on an "equal footing between the two sides," he added.

Israel must "terminate its occupation of Lebanese territories and implement Resolution 425 through the mechanism afforded in Resolution 426," in order to achieve peace, Lebanon's Chammas stressed.

"While understanding Israel has security concerns, Lebanon views Israel's 'self-proclaimed security zone' in South Lebanon as an obstacle to peace, Mr. Chammas said.

"The self-proclaimed, self-declared security zone brought neither tranquility nor security, and continued to be a serious impediment in the progress and movement towards peace and its ultimate objective," he said.

Mr. Chammas accused Israel of being "totally oblivious" to Lebanon's security needs and to how "destabilising the presence and the occupation of Israel of our territory has been to Lebanon."

Israel's security needs "should not be at the expense of Lebanese security, Lebanese tranquility, and Lebanese stability," Chammas said.

Jordan's Majali reported near agreement with Israel on the agenda for negotiations. Dr. Majali said the delegations are waiting for approval from their governments. "But, more or less the language is almost in its final stages," he said.

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U.N. expert says no gap in Iraqi data

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of a U.N. arms team wound up a 14-day inspection of sites across Iraq Friday saying his mission closed several gaps in information on Iraq's weapons programmes.

"We have covered all unclassified areas, many gaps were closed," Nikita Smidovich told reporters before departure to Bahrain.

On Monday, Mr. Smidovich said there were significant gaps in information provided by Baghdad on its ballistic missile programme.

But the Russian expert said as he left his Baghdad hotel that intensive inspections in the last two days helped in gathering the necessary data.

"I would say that the last two days really reversed that trend," Mr. Smidovich said.

Asked if any gaps remained in Iraqi information, Mr. Smidovich said: "The conclusion on some others that may remain depends on our analysis."

However, he declined to specify which areas he had managed to cover during the latest inspection.

Mr. Smidovich arrived on Oct. 16 with the largest U.N. inspection team to visit Iraq despite a request by Baghdad to postpone it until after next Tuesday's U.S. presidential election.

But he said the visit was unique because Iraqi experts had been forthcoming and cooperative.

"I would say that this inspection was unique in many ways: In our planning for it, coverage of sites, its intensity and the Iraqi attitude," he said.

He said he intensively searched more than 50 Iraqi sites and held "several dozen hours of discussions and seminars with the Iraqis."

Mr. Smidovich and his 50-member team of inspectors arrived in Baghdad armed with intelligence reports that Iraq might be hiding hundreds of Scud missiles left over from an arsenal of 819 bought from the Soviet Union or developed domestically.

But he said: "Our mission was a different one. We were addressing other issues than directly looking for hidden Scud missiles."

Asked if more inspections were needed to rid Iraq of its ballistic missile capability, Mr. Smidovich said:

"At the moment, I am hesitant to say because we've collected so much information that will need analysis."

Under the Gulf war ceasefire terms Baghdad is obliged to declare and destroy missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and equipment and facilities used in their production.

Iraq says it has no more prohibited missiles or related equipment left.

U.N. inspectors have verified the destruction of all Iraq's declared ballistic missile material including 150 Scuds, dozens of launchers and launch pads and all known production material.

Asked if he could now say there were no more prohibited missiles left in Iraq, Mr. Smidovich said: "That conclusion must be made by the executive chairman of the special commission."

He said it was time the U.N. proceeded with its plans for long-term monitoring to ensure that Iraq would not embark on activities banned by the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Upon his arrival in Bahrain, Mr. Smidovich said the U.N. team was harassed and even threatened with death despite official assurances they would be safe.

"In the beginning they assured us that they will see that the team operates in a safe environment," Mr. Smidovich said.

CIA knew exports going to Iraqi arms industries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Though it knew before the Gulf war that U.S. exports to Iraq were for defence industries, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) did not tell the Commerce Department, which approved the sales, documents show.

The Commerce Department approved some \$1.5 billion in exports to Iraq from 1985 to 1990, saying most were not designated for military use.

Information revealed Thursday in the United States and Britain indicated that the CIA had information about Iraqi defence industry purchases.

At least five of the Iraqi companies that bought U.S. technology legally turn out to have been military industries with innocuous sounding names that did not concern the Commerce Department.

The department also was under orders of the president's administration to encourage trade with Iraq.

But the CIA, and possibly the Defence Intelligence Agency, knew the true nature of some of the Iraqi companies, according to a congressional investigator's documents obtained Thursday by the Associated Press.

On Jan. 29, 1991, the senior congressional investigator met with CIA officials to ask what the agency had known about 25 of the Iraqi end-users listed on U.S. export licenses, and whether the agency had notified the Commerce Department.

F. Douglas Whitehouse, who headed the CIA's committee on technology transfer, said he had run a computer check comparing the 25 end-users against a CIA data bank, according to the notes made by the investigator, who also was interviewed on the ground that he not be identified.

Mr. Whitehouse said he had come up with "about five hits" — five companies about which the CIA had information, said the investigator. He said the CIA told him it did not supply the

information to the Commerce Department because it was never asked to do so.

Complaints about the CIA's reluctance to share information with other government agencies are legion. The problem was recently underscored in the case of an Italian bank branch in Atlanta that approved unauthorised loans to Iraq.

The CIA — responding to congressional pressure — earlier this month admitted that it had failed to provide all the information it had to the judge in the case, and that it had found additional cables in its files in recent weeks.

In a message to agency employees this week, CIA Director Robert Gates said he had asked his inspector-general to examine the records system of the Directorate of Operations — the agency's clandestine arm — and to recommend changes that will "put an end to difficulties in responding promptly to congressional and other inquiries."

But critics of the CIA argue that the agency has an instinctive mistrust of sharing information with outsiders, partly out of fear of compromising its sources, and that no amount of records reforms will help.

For example, congressional investigators say the CIA knew that Iraqi-owned companies were operating in the United States in 1989 and 1990 under the guise of civilian buying agents when in fact they were military purchasing fronts. Investigators want to know whether the CIA informed law enforcement agencies about that.

The latest suggestion that the CIA knew about such Iraqi front companies in the United States was provided Thursday. The issue arose at the London trial of three former officials of an Iraqi-owned company — Matrix Churchill — that had a branch in England and another outside Cleveland, Ohio.

More than half the U.S. senate has signed a letter sent to the United Nations, urging stronger measures against Iraq for alleged human rights violations and international terrorism.

The bipartisan group of senators called for a General Assembly resolution condemning Iraq and for Security Council adoption of "effective measures to halt Iraq's growing threat to her own citizens and to the world community."

The letter followed a similar appeal by a majority of the House of Representatives in July which urged the Bush administration to support an exiled opposition group's attempts to overthrow Iraq's Islamic government.

Representatives of the Iranian opposition, the Mujahadeen-e Khalq, lobbied for the latest congressional appeal and distributed copies of the senators' letter to news media.

The office of Sen. Hank Brown, a Colorado Democrat, also issued a news release on the letter, saying it was signed by Mr. Brown and 61 other senators.

The U.S. senate has 100 seats. "We are convinced that the time has come for the free world to join together against the human rights abuses of the Iranian regime," the senators said in the letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

The letter cited "persistent reports from Iran of shocking human rights abuses," including a new wave of suppression against women.

It notes a U.N. report in January of increasing executions and said hundreds of anti-government demonstrations in Iranian cities have been met with more repression from the regime.

"Exporting terrorism internationally has become another hallmark of this brutal regime," the letter said, quoting from a U.S. State Department assessment which describes Iran as "a leading state sponsor of terrorism."

"One chilling aspect of Iran's support for international terrorism is its simultaneous quest to obtain nuclear technology and weapons," the senators said.

The Mujahadeen said Friday that the Italian Parliament had adopted a bill restricting the Italian government in its relations with Tehran.

Noting "severe clampdown of anti-government demonstrations in recent months, and to prevent the endangering of peace in this region of the world by regime of Italy to 'act in such a way that political, economic and commercial ties with Iran in no way reflect support of initiatives by Iranian officials that would be contrary to the aforesaid imperatives concerning stability and peace."

The Italian Parliament also obliges the government to "act in such a way that democracy and human rights in their totality are guaranteed."

This bill was adopted four months after a declaration was issued by 377 Italian parliamentarians calling for the condemnation of the government and support for the Mujahadeen.

In a statement issued on July 3, Italian parliamentarians stressed the need to support the resistance and called on the government of Italy to "review its political and economic ties with Tehran's regime."

Arabs urge more active American role in Mideast peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Palestinians' top negotiator to the Middle East peace talks says there are few prospects for progress unless the United States takes a more active role in the negotiations.

Accusing Israel of not adhering to the terms of reference of the talks, Haider Abdul Shafi said "unless there is some pressure on Israel to desist from this position, I think there are no prospects for peace."

Without a peace settlement, "the door will be open for all kinds of negative developments in the area," he warned.

Dr. Abdul Shafi spoke at a joint press conference Thursday along with Mowaffaq Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation; Suhail Chammas, head of the Lebanese delegation; and Abdul Salam Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said Israel has not accepted the applicability of United Nations Resolution 242 to discussions on an interim self-governing authority in the occupied territories.

There has been no progress in the talks "simply because Israel is not committed to the terms of reference. They refuse to implement the meaning and the spirit of Resolution 242. (Resolution) 242 is the basis for the negotiating process," he said.

The United States must insist on respect of the terms of reference — Resolution 242," Dr. Abdul Shafi continued. "I don't think that Israel by itself is going to come about to do what is needed to reach a peaceful situation," he added.

On security issues, Mr. Allaf said "whatever security arrange-

ments agreed upon between the two sides should be subject to the condition that it not affect the rights, territorial integrity, and the security of the other side."

Security "should be reciprocal" and on an "equal footing between the two sides," he added.

Israel must "terminate its occupation of Lebanese territories and implement Resolution 425 through the mechanism afforded in Resolution 426," in order to achieve peace, Lebanon's Chammas stressed.

"While understanding Israel has security concerns, Lebanon views Israel's 'self-proclaimed security zone' in South Lebanon as an obstacle to peace, Mr. Chammas said.

"The self-proclaimed, self-declared security zone brought neither tranquility nor security, and continued to be a serious impediment in the progress and movement towards peace and its ultimate objective," he said.

Mr. Chammas accused Israel of being "totally oblivious" to Lebanon's security needs and to how "destabilising the presence and the occupation of Israel of our territory has been to Lebanon."

Israel's security needs "should not be at the expense of Lebanese security, Lebanese tranquility, and Lebanese stability," Chammas said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Saudis asked to block sub sale to Iran'

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration tried to stop the sale of Russian submarines to Iran by urging Saudi Arabia to pay off Moscow, the Washington Post reported Friday. The newspaper, citing unidentified U.S. and British officials, said the gambit failed as did diplomatic approaches to Moscow. "It's not clear that there's a price that would stop the sale that the Saudis are willing to pay," an official involved in the negotiations was quoted as saying. The newspaper said the first of the submarines was now expected to arrive in the Gulf by mid-November and would mark a new strategic challenge in the Strait of Hormuz. One ranking defence official, citing the 1987 operation to reflag and protect Kuwaiti ships against Iranian attack, predicted that U.S. warships would again escort friendly ships if Tehran makes good on "public threats to use the submarines to control the chokepoint to the Gulf's oil ports," the Post said. "I can't imagine we'll permit them to do that against anybody," the official was quoted as saying. "We conducted a substantial military operation to prevent that five years ago, and if anything our interests are now stronger."

Yemen ratifies border agreement with Oman

SANAA (R) — Yemen has ratified a border demarcation agreement that ended a 25-year-old dispute with neighbouring Oman. An official statement said the five-man presidential council signed the agreement into law Thursday after it was approved by parliament. Under the agreement, signed on Oct. 1, Oman relinquishes its claim to a vast territory bordering its western Dhofar province. Oman has controlled the area since 1957 when its troops crossed the border in pursuit of the leftist Dhofar insurgents. The Yemeni statement said the border agreement would "set a solid basis for developing brotherly relations between the two countries, and...for fruitful cooperation to achieve the two nations' interests." Yemen's ill-defined border had been a recurring source of friction with its Arabian Peninsula neighbours, Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the north. Negotiations are under way for a border demarcation agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Sudan says attack on Malakal crushed

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader says a recent rebel attack on Malakal, a key town in the south, has been crushed, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported on Thursday. It quoted Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir as saying the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had suffered heavy losses. An SPLA faction led by Riak Machar and Lam Akol said last week that it had captured Malakal, 600 kilometres south of the capital, Khartoum. In Nairobi on Wednesday, Sudan's chief peace negotiator, Ali Haj Mohammad, said Malakal was still firmly in government hands. Gen. Bashir was quoted as saying the situation was now stable across Upper Nile state and government troops were conducting mopping-up operations.

Egypt soccer player faces drug charges

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian soccer player was arrested and charged with dealing drugs as part of an international heroin ring, security sources said Thursday. The sources said police in Alexandria Tuesday arrested Samir Fawzi, a player with the city's Itihadia Club, in possession of a kilogramme of heroin smuggled from Libya with a street value of about a million Egyptian pounds (\$300,000). They arrested Fawzi, who used to play for leading Egyptian club Ahli, after Cairo police arrested another dealer with half a kilogramme of heroin. A third man in the ring, an Alexandrian businessman, was arrested Tuesday. Drug-trafficking is sometimes punished by death in Egypt.

Ships collide in Suez Canal

CAIRO (R) — Two ships have collided in the Suez Canal, causing a minor oil spill, the Egyptian Ports Authority said Thursday. It said in a statement the Norwegian bulk carrier MV Srinada and Egyptian refuelling vessel Soheir collided near the northern entrance to the canal at Port Said Tuesday. The Soheir was gashed in the side and split at about 350 tonnes of oil. The Suez Canal Authority was clean up the spill but traffic through the canal has not been affected, it said; statement said. There were no injuries in the collision. No other details were immediately available.

Australia sends large trade team to Iran

CANBERRA (R) — Australia will send a large trade delegation to Iran, its biggest Middle East market, for two days of talks, Trade Minister John Kerin said Thursday. The 71-member delegation led by Mr. Kerin was to leave Friday and include representatives of Australian manufacturing, agricultural and services producers. Mr. Kerin said in a statement the Australian Trade Commission, the government export promoter, had targeted Iran as a priority area. Australian exports to Iran in 1990 totalled 619 million Australian dollars (U.S. \$430 million), although they fell to 394 million dollars (U.S. \$270 million) in 1991 when drought restricted wheat sales. Mr. Kerin said the commission had identified another one billion dollars (U.S. \$695 million) in potential contracts. One possibility was the construction of a sugar mill.

Nobel winner: Israel violated human rights

TEL AVIV (R) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu accused Israel in an interview published Thursday of having violated human rights by siding with Guatemala's army. The Guatemalan Indian leader who won the prize this month told Israel's Davar newspaper: "In the past the Guatemalan army received very generous aid from Israel. Among other things, it received aid in computers and weaponry. 'If the government of Israel is continuing to grant this aid, we are pleading: 'Enough, do not give a hand to continuing the violation of human rights in my country.' Israel's defence ministry offered no immediate response. Mr. Menchu's mother, father and a brother were killed after opposing the military and landowners in Guatemala, where 100,000 people have died in a 30-year-old guerrilla insurgency. The Norwegian Nobel committee recognised Mr. Menchu's "work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples."

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King presents medals to Sudanese and Japanese ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday conferred the Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order on Sudanese Ambassador Abdullah Jibarah and Japanese Ambassador Tadayuki Nonoyama on the occasion of the end of their tenure in the Kingdom and in appreciation of their role in enhancing their countries' relations with Jordan. The two ambassadors were presented with the medals by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber at a ceremony held in their honour in Amman Thursday.

Crown Prince visits Armed Forces H.Q.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Thursday the general headquarters of the Armed Forces where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, with whom he discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Arabyat receives medal from Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat was granted the Libyan First of September Medal of the First Order, according to a message sent to Dr. Arabyat by Secretary General of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Abdul Rahman Al Nawawi. The message said the medal, the highest honour in Libya, was conferred upon Dr. Arabyat in appreciation of his position vis-a-vis the western campaign against Libya.

Tourism in the Middle East to be discussed in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meeting of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) Middle East committee which will start in Cairo on Nov. 8. The committee will discuss in its four-day meetings tourism promotion policies in the Middle East and North Africa. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism Nasri Atallah. In addition to Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Iraq will participate in the meetings.

Sourou to join meeting in Cairo on housing construction

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Sourou will leave Saturday for Cairo at the head of the Jordanian delegation participating in the meetings of the Arab Housing and Construction Ministers Council due to open there Sunday. Mr. Sourou said the meetings will discuss preparations for holding the regional Arab conference on national housing strategies and recommendations by a seminar held to discuss cracks in buildings and ways of tackling them. The meetings will also discuss the construction specifications in the Arab World and will draw up Arab building design and construction codes, the minister said.

New passport office to open in North Shuneh District

AMMAN (Petra) — A new passport office in North Shuneh District will start offering services to citizens as of Sunday, according to the Director General of the Civil Registration and Passports Department, Nasouh Muhyeddin. Mr. Muhyeddin said the office will be issuing new passports and will be renewing expired ones. He called on citizens in Northern Shuneh District to transfer their files to the new office and asked them not to call at the Passports Department in Amman from now on. Mr. Muhyeddin said a Civil Registration office in Kufraja town will also start operations Sunday. He said similar Civil Registration offices will be opened in Sabha and Subhiyah town in Mafrqa Governorate in November and another in Sama Al Sarhan area in December. He said these measures are part of the department's administrative reform plans which aim to facilitate administrative procedures.

Balloon rally to be announced on Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism Nasri Atallah will Sunday hold a press conference to announce a balloon rally which will be organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian (RJ), and the Jordanian Armed Forces. The event which will be held on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Deputies to visit citizens of South Shuneh

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputies representing Al Balqa Governorate in the Lower House of Parliament will Sunday meet with citizens in South Shuneh District. The Lower House members will brief the citizens on the achievements of the House during the past three years and will discuss problems facing them and the agricultural situation in the district.

Number of centres for evening classes rises to 14

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the First Education Department in Amman Ghazi Al Momani said Thursday the number of centres for evening classes in the department had reached 14. Mr. Momani said the centres were distributed in the areas of Marka, Al Nasr, Al Taj, Al Jofeh, Al Hashimi, Al Hussein and Sweileh. He said eight of these centres were for male students and six were for females. The number of students registered at these centres in the current academic year totalled 1,469, of whom 808 were male and 661 were female, Mr. Momani said.

Press conference on agriculture planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khasawneh will hold a press conference at the ministry Sunday to discuss issues related to the second Arab conference for the development of poultry and egg production which will be held in Amman Nov. 8. The conference will be organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries.

Seminar to discuss earthquakes

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan and 12 other Arab and European countries will take part in a seminar on earthquakes to open in Damascus Nov. 4.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Omar Hamdan Shahwan at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Sudanese products fair at the International Expo Centre, University Road.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on the dimensions of Iran's stand on its dispute with the United Arab Emirates over Abu Musa Island by Dr. Zahid Sammour at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.



KING VISITS PRIME MINISTER: His Majesty King Hussein visited Thursday the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Sharrif Zeid Ben Shaker. King Hussein discussed with Sharrif Zeid domestic, Arab and international developments and issued directives on certain issues.

Mahjoub discusses trade and tourism with ministers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudan's Minister of State Saeed Mahjoub Saturday resumes his meeting with Jordanian government ministers and representatives of the private sector, according to Sudanese embassy officials. Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh Thursday Mr. Mahjoub outlined his country's potential for sales of agricultural products, fish, animal feed and meat to Jordan. Dr. Khasawneh for his part, discussed possible contributions Jordan could make in setting up special units in Sudan to protect sheep and other animals from diseases by providing the necessary veterinary services and vaccines. Mr. Mahjoub discussed with Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat the prospect of concluding a protocol for bilateral cooperation in tourism and the exchange of expertise in the tourism sector. The talks Thursday followed the opening Wednesday of Sudan's second trade fair in Amman. The fair is the result of a Jordan-Sudan trade protocol which provides for the two countries to exchange goods worth \$70 million through trade fairs, trade centres and direct commercial deals.

Seminar on Jerash festival calls for inauguration day to be exclusively Jordanian

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the role of cultural and artistic organisations in the Jerash festival for culture and art was held in Amman Wednesday with the participation of representatives of four government ministries, public and private institutions, and cultural and artistic groups. The Jordanian Artists Association which was represented at the seminar called for inaugurating the festival every year with a Jordanian play and fixing specific standards for selecting poets and singers, stressing that Jordanian singers should play an important role in the festival. The association urged that the inauguration day should be exclusively Jordanian.

Participants in the seminar agreed that the association will have a basic role in nominating local and Arab theatrical works for the festival. The participants also stressed the important role plastic art plays in the festival, and recommended a suitable venue for displaying art works in Jerash during the festival. Senator Laila Sharaf, who is deputy chairman of the festival's



Jordanian entertainers perform at a previous Jerash Festival (J.T. photo)

higher national committee, briefed the audience on the goals and development of the festival during the past years, in addition to difficulties facing its organisers.

Ms. Sharaf emphasised that the festival aims to encourage and support the cultural and artistic movement in Jordan. She said the seminar was held to discuss possible ways to gathering support for the festival in the future in addition to defining and activating the

Venus in rare eclipse

AMMAN (R) — Venus, the brightest object in the sky after the sun and moon, was obscured by the moon in a rare eclipse on Wednesday, a Jordanian expert said Thursday.

Jordan and adjacent countries had the best sighting of the phenomenon, last seen more than 30 years ago, said Ali Abandah, director general of the Jordan Meteorological Office. Jordanians saw the planet, which appears as a bright star, hanging on the tip of a thin crescent moon for several minutes before it was obscured in the eclipse just after sunset.

Plans for cancer centre are running smoothly

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A national task force setting up the Al Amal Cancer Centre has now collected JD 3.2 million and is in the process of preparing staff and gathering equipment needed for the centre. Abdullah Al Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who is spearheading the effort said on Friday: "We have already received JD 3.2 million in cash, and have pledged for another JD 1.1 million to be paid throughout the year plus JD 1 million for the GUVS fund of the poor."

He also said that the task force is in the process of registering for the Cancer Centre the 100 dunums of land and 36 cars pledged by Jordanian donors worth JD 1.1 million, and is evaluating the nature of work offered by volunteer groups wishing to help with the completion of the centre.

"We are publishing the names of those who offered contribution for the vital project and shortly we plan to produce a booklet with all the names of the donors, individuals and organisations alike," said Dr. Khatib.

GUVS earlier this month organised a week of activities to raise funds for the Cancer Centre and announced later that it received cash and pledges worth a total of



Abdullah Al Khatib

JD 6.2 million.

The event included a door to door collection, a sponsored walk, cultural performances and a one day televised telethon, during which donors announced their contributions for the centre.

According to Dr. Khatib, Her Majesty Queen Noor will Monday honour 150 individuals, organisations, newspapers, writers, and others, who over the past four months were instrumental in helping the task force to succeed in its mission.

The task force also plans to honour the donors at a special ceremony to be held in two weeks time from now, said Dr. Khatib. Asked about preparations for operating the centre whose structure is now almost complete, Dr. Khatib said that GUVS and the

task force are busy trying to recruit staff and purchase the medical equipment required for the centre.

Arrangements are underway with the University of Jordan to introduce a special training course for 60 nurses on special scholarships to be employed at the centre. The university plans to train 20 nurses a year for the centre. 12 medical specialists and 12 nurses are currently receiving training in running the cancer centre in the United States, the United Kingdom and France, Dr. Khatib added. One task force member Nabih Muammar is currently in the United States visiting the national cancer institute in Washington DC to make arrangements for joint cooperation in the field of caring for cancer patients.

Dr. Khatib said that two U.S. experts are coming to Jordan in the next week in order to evaluate the work done towards implementing the project. They are to prepare a report about the centre's needs of man power and medical equipment. He added that everything is running according to plan and expressed hope that the project would become operational by the end of 1993 as originally planned.

According to current estimates, the project will cost some JD 13 million which will cover the construction of the building and equipment required.

Bio-conference recommends more aid for the sciences

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five day conference on biological sciences which ended Thursday issued a set of recommendations urging Arab governments to support the activities of non-governmental research centres and other societies to promote their studies in biological sciences.

A statement along with the recommendations was issued at the University of Jordan where the meetings were held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. It called on Arab countries to encourage Arab scientists to promote their work in scientific fields and to participate in pan-Arab conferences dealing with biological sciences. The recommendations included the setting up of scientific centres to control materials used in the conservation of food as a means to fight cancer and other measures designed to provide protection to the environment. The statement said that the participants, who represented 13 Arab states decided to hold their next meeting in Tunis in May 1994.

The Queen, who attended the opening session Oct. 24, sent a message to the final meeting wishing the delegates success in their endeavours urging them to exert themselves in their mission. She said that all Arabs now live in an age abounding with scientific information and fast moving scientific discoveries.

Jordan stresses need for economic cooperation at Paris talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has again stressed that regional economic cooperation can only materialise after the bilateral talks in the peace process have achieved progress. The head of the Jordanian delegation to the Paris meeting on economic cooperation, Fayez Tarawneh, made the assertion at the opening of the meeting on Thursday.

The Paris meeting is attended by 40 delegates from Arab and foreign countries under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom, who holds the presidency of the European Community.

Dr. Tarawneh said that Jordan, wants the bilateral talks to achieve a breakthrough in the talks on economic cooperation, but he stressed that the bilateral talks should be linked with the multilateral.

The Paris meeting intends to

set up sub-committees to discuss a proposal by France for the creation of a bank to finance economic projects and suggestions from the U.S., Japan and France to develop the Middle East countries by providing experts and promoting transport and communications within the region.

Meanwhile, Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh reiterated that Jordan was committed to the U.N. Charter and strives to have weapons of mass-destruction eliminated. Mr. Abu Odeh told a special U.N. committee on international security and disarmament that Jordan hopes that the Middle East will become a free nuclear zone.


Mr. Abu Odeh criticised Israel for not signing an international treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Minister returns from Tehran following drug talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul returned to Amman from Tehran Friday after participating in the meetings of the Middle and Near East sub-committee for illegal drug dealings.

Mr. Shoul said Jordan presented to the meeting a working paper dealing with combating drug trafficking in Jordan since 1973, when an anti-narcotics de-

partment was established. The minister said he held meetings with his Iranian counterpart and senior Iranian officials for talks on Jordanian Iranian relations and ways of enhancing them. He said he also held talks with representatives of participating countries in the meetings and discussed with them bilateral relations between Jordan and their respective countries.



Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

TENDER NO. (B/92)

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for Styer truck-tractors. Customs duties unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from the company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800-1400) for the sum of JD 25, non-refundable, starting from 31/10/1992. Closing date for submitting offers is Tuesday 1/12/1992 (1200 hrs).

Dr. Shaker Mahadin,
Director General



Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

TENDER NO. (A/92)

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Co. intends to sell 89 used M.A.N. truck tractors.

- Custom duties unpaid
- Offers can be submitted to buy all truck-tractors or any number.
- Truck-tractors can be inspected at the company's garages in Al Azraq, starting from 31/10/1992.
- Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought from the company's main-offices in Jabal Amman between the Fourth and Fifth Circle, during the official working hours (0800-1400) for the sum of JD 100, non-refundable, starting from 31/10/92.
- Closing date for submitting offers is Tuesday 1/12/92 (1200 hrs).

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Director General

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Strategy against despair

AS EXPECTED the seventh round of peace talks recessed Wednesday leaving parties to mark time till the U.S. presidential elections are over. This suggests that both sides expect the outcome of the presidential race to have a great effect on the course of the peace parleys. Better still, the recess may prove to be a blessing in disguise since it allows the two sides to reconvene later in November when the tension that has been building up lately ease down thus providing a more propitious climate for conducting the peace talks. These are still high expectations that when the negotiations resume on Nov. 9, both sides will submit new ideas to advance the peace process and inch closer to achieving meaningful results. The visit of King Hassan II of Morocco cannot be examined and viewed except against the backdrop of the ongoing peace negotiations between Israel and the various Arab parties. The Moroccan monarch through his efforts for Arab reconciliation, must also be trying to give impetus to the peace talks. Morocco has had a long record of efforts to promote peace conditions in the Middle East, especially on the Arab-Israeli fronts. It was no accident therefore that King Hassan's first stop in his itinerary in the Middle East and Gulf regions was Riyadh, where he met with King Fahd and the Saudi leadership. It happens that Saudi Arabia carries considerable weight and clout when it comes to new political developments in the area. Riyadh's economic weight has been augmented of late by profound increase in its political strength on the Middle East and Gulf regions' levels. This all occurred in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991 when Iraq was soundly defeated and left a big vacuum in the region. Ever since that time, Washington and Riyadh were busy cementing a closer than ever relationship on many levels. This has led some observers to conclude that next to London, Bonn and Paris, Riyadh is becoming one of the more significant capitals for Washington. That fundamental change in the Middle East political scene provides King Fahd with exceptional powers to pull few strings here and there with reference to the peace process itself as well. Damascus is a close friend of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad can be presumed to be amenable to requests from the Saudi king. Coming next Nov. 9 therefore the parties to the negotiations in Washington may be expected to be more forthright in the presentation of their views on the terms and conditions of the eventual peace treaties that could bind Israel on the one hand with the other Arab governments on the other hand. This could actually explain why the Israeli prime minister is rebuffing all calls from extremist circles from within his country to boycott the peace negotiations, something that was echoed with equal force by the hardliners on the Arab side as well. So there is still hope that the Arab-Israeli conflict will have a good chance for resolution. As long as all the delegations remain on course and stay determined to pursue that strategy, the room for despair will become that much smaller.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS good that the Jordanian and Moroccan views were identical in talks between the leaders of the two countries because this reflects the strong relations between the two sides on the one hand and can pave the ground for a fruitful joint Arab action on the other, said Al Rai's Arabic daily. King Hassan's mediation efforts are commended by all Arabs concerned about the nation's unity and solidarity and are a welcome development in Jordan, said the daily. It said that there can be no alternative to ending inter-Arab differences if the negotiators in Washington are to receive meaningful backing in their talks to regain Arab lands and rights. The mediation efforts come at a most crucial moment when the Arabs are in total disarray and when the peace process lacks momentum, the paper continued. The Arab countries demand that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 be implemented and that a just and durable settlement be achieved in the region can only come when the Arabs are united in their demands and in their serious efforts, noted the paper. Jordan, it said, has been among the foremost Arab states calling for solidarity among the Arab's and it was natural for the Kingdom to warmly welcome King Hassan's mediation which should be supported by word and deed on the part of all Arab states. It is hoped, said the paper, that these efforts will now bear fruit and end the differences among the Arab countries.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai's daily presented a number of ideas aimed at solving the unemployment problem affecting the geologists. Jordan has 300 unemployed geologists, forming 40 per cent of the total number of registered Jordanian geologists; and finding work for these people should not be a miracle, said Salah Abdul Samad. He said that the government has recently ordered the formation of a committee to submit recommendations about solving the problem; and the committee is advised to turn its attention to the major organisations in Jordan for possible employment of the geologists, particularly if their operations are connected with public works and mining. The writer said that the Water and Irrigation Ministry, for instance, should engage the services of geologists who can be employed in supervising the drilling of wells and in areas where stone-cutting for building is going on. Geologists can also be employed in the archaeological excavations which abound in Jordan, and in areas where bridges are to be built, he added.

Making sense of U.S. presidential elections

By Curtis R. Ryan

WITH THREE major candidates in the U.S. presidential race, rather than the usual two, some observers have raised the prospect of an electoral crisis in the United States if none of the candidates gains the majority of electoral votes required to win the presidency. But just how likely is such a crisis? What happens if no one wins a majority? And what would this mean for the 1992 U.S. presidential election?

It is not surprising that these questions puzzle many people watching the outcome of the U.S. elections, yet it may come as a surprise that many Americans have no idea what the answers to these questions are either. Among the reasons for this is that the American electoral system is far more complex than it at first appears—a system in which 20th century high-tech methods of gathering and tabulating voting data carry out an electoral process established in the late 18th century. In the last two hundred years of American democracy, this system has functioned fairly well, with few major problems. There have, however, been a few instances of political crisis revolving around indeterminate or disputed election results. According to some analysts, 1992 may be another of these years.

To make sense out of any of this, and to evaluate the prospects for a smooth or tumultuous election, requires a look at the unique nature of the American system itself. One of the keys to American politics is to understand that Americans do not directly elect their president. In fact, there is a very important

difference between the popular vote and the electoral vote. The latter refers to the vote of the "Electoral college" which, despite its name, is not a school of any kind, but is little more than a method of transferring the millions of votes cast in an election into a smaller, more manageable, number. Even with close to 190 million eligible voters, the total number of votes in the electoral college is only 538. In order to win the presidency, a candidate must gain 270 electoral votes.

Each of the fifty states in the U.S. has a number of electoral votes allocated to it based on its population. The most populous states therefore get the largest number of electoral votes, and hence have a great deal of influence on American electoral outcomes. California's 24 million people, for example, give the state 47 electoral votes, the largest bloc of votes in the United States; while Alaska's 500,000 people yield only three votes. Not surprisingly, presidential candidates tend to spend far more time courting voters in California than they do those in Alaska. In addition to California, all three candidates will focus most of their attention on the other "top ten" large states, including New York (36 votes), Texas (29), Pennsylvania (25), Illinois (24), Ohio (23), Florida (21), Michigan (20), New Jersey (16), and North Carolina (13). In 1992, and in many future elections, these will be among the key "battleground" states to keep an eye on.

The election of the president of the United States, therefore, does not result from adding up all

the popular votes nationwide. Instead, the count of the popular vote is more critical on a state by state basis. When a candidate wins the largest number of popular votes in a state, he receives all that state's electoral votes. This process is often described as a "winner take all" system, in which only a plurality, not a majority, is required to take a state in its entirety. For that reason, despite the millions of votes cast in every election, every vote does indeed count. If a candidate edges out an opponent by only 100 votes, he still gains all that state's electoral votes. So even a small number of votes may tip the state in favor of one candidate or another.

This system, however, carries with it the potential for a number of distortions. The winner-take-all system, for example, tends to inflate the margin of victory of the winning candidate. In 1988, George Bush received 54 per cent of the popular vote to 46 per cent for Michael Dukakis, yet Bush gained 426 electoral votes to only 111 for Dukakis. Even more problematic is the possibility of a candidate receiving a majority of the popular vote, but losing the vote in the electoral college—depending on exactly which states were won and lost. In short, the popular vote winner may still turn out to be the electoral vote loser—and the latter vote is the critical one. One hundred years before the Bush-Dukakis election, for example, incumbent president Grover Cleveland lost the White House to Benjamin Harrison in a tight race in which Cleveland gained more popular votes but

Harrison managed to win more electoral votes.

After every close presidential race, there have been calls to do away with the Electoral College system and instead to directly elect the president. Yet in each instance, various suggested reforms have failed to become law. Not surprisingly, such proposals for electoral reform tend to be blocked by the same large states that are favoured by the Electoral College system. Calls for reform have once again emerged in 1992, but it is unlikely that any major changes will be implemented unless there is an electoral crisis.

Although electoral crises have been somewhat rare in American politics, the chances for such an occurrence are greater when there are three presidential candidates on every ballot. For example, even if Perot received only 35 per cent of the popular vote in Texas, he would take 100 per cent of its electoral votes, provided the other two candidates received less than 35 per cent of the popular vote. For that reason, Perot's independent candidacy has a fighting chance. On the other hand, it would require a large number of such upset "victories" to yield the 270 electoral votes needed to gain the White House. So Perot's chances of an outright victory must still be considered very slim.

While a majority of the popular vote is not essential to win all the electoral votes of a given state, a majority of electoral votes is required in order to win the presidency itself. So what worries Bush and Clinton is the potential for Perot to win just enough

states to prevent either of them from gaining that coveted majority.

If this happens, the election will be decided in the United States Congress. If the electoral vote is indeterminate, the system calls for the members of the House of Representatives to elect the president, while the members of the Senate elect the vice president. Although the more populous states hold a great deal of sway over electoral outcomes through the Electoral College, their position would decrease dramatically if the vote were to go to Congress. For there the rules call for only one vote from each state, regardless of population. In this system, then, the smallest and largest states suddenly have equal voting power.

In the past, the House of Representatives had decided the election several times after indeterminate results in the Electoral College, but this has not occurred in the twentieth century. In 1800, the Electoral College vote was a tie, and the House then elected Thomas Jefferson over Aaron Burr. In both 1824 and 1876, the candidate elected by the House had actually received less of the popular vote than his nearest opponent. The question remains whether 1992 will join this list of unusual cases. And if it does, there is the additional question of whether the House and Senate would, respectively, elect a president and vice-president from different parties.

It is certainly possible that the three-way race in 1992 will leave no one the clear winner, and lead to the various possibilities sug-

gested above. Yet, while the Perot candidacy makes these deadlock scenarios possible, it also ironically enhances the chance of a Clinton landslide victory in electoral votes if the Perot vote serves to take states from Bush and, in effect, "give" them to Clinton. On the other hand, if the vote is more evenly spread among the three candidates, with none receiving a majority, a Clinton/Gore victory is still the most likely outcome in a congressional vote. This is simply because the majority of the members of both the House and Senate are Democrats, and would certainly be likely to vote for their party's candidate. In short, Clinton and Gore have an edge over their opponents and hope to win an outright victory, but would be nonetheless favoured in the event of a "crisis" requiring a congressional vote.

Regardless of whether 1992 sees a deadlock or a landslide in the U.S. presidential election, the danger of a political crisis resulting from the vagaries of the Electoral College system will remain. But perhaps this time the calls for reform will finally be heeded, and a democratic system with a 200-year electoral history can become still more democratic — by abolishing this 18th century institution and moving towards direct presidential elections.

Mr. Ryan is a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina, currently doing research with the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

King Hassan's visit to the region — an effort to rekindle Arab unity

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE DAILY newspapers last week gave coverage to a tour by King Hassan of Morocco, the peace process in Washington, the situation in the Arab World and a number of domestic affairs.

King Hassan's trip to Jordan, in the course of his tour of the Arab states in the region, was historic because it was the first to the Kingdom by the Monarch, it was of significance because it represented one step towards ending inter-Arab differences, said Al Dustour daily.

The paper said that, coming in the wake of the Gulf war and in the midst of current disputes among Arab regimes, the visit is looked upon as a very important move towards reestablishing solidarity among the Arab states.

As the Arab League is no longer effective in gathering the Arabs under one umbrella and fusing their collective action, King Hassan took it upon himself to try to bring about solidarity and unity among the Arabs, said Tareq Masarweh in Al Rai's daily.

The writer wished the king success, in his very difficult task, noting that the continued differences can only bring about further sufferings for the Arab masses.

There is no doubt that King Hassan of Morocco will be swimming against the stream and facing numerous obstacles in his efforts to bring about reconciliation among the Arab heads of state, said Al Dustour.

The paper said that the Gulf crisis and the subsequent disputes among the Arabs should be tackled urgently and the king's moves are positive, leading in the right direction.

Under the title "A mission of goodwill", Saleh Al Qallab, who writes for Al Dustour, expressed his belief that the king's mediation efforts will achieve good results.

The writer said the king would not have embarked on his mission in the first place had he not known in advance that the preliminary contacts that paved the ground for his tour were fruitful.

Fakhri Kassar turned his attention to the situation in the Arab World, citing Sudan's gesture of sending a planeload of meat to Iraq as one propitious move that could draw other Arabs towards helping the Iraqi people. The writer, whose columns appear in Al Rai's daily, said that delegates from all Arab countries attending a popular gathering in

Baghdad were overjoyed upon seeing the first shipment of meat landing at Baghdad airport.

They expressed hope that similar moves would be copied by other Arabs, he said.

His views were echoed by Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour. He considered Qatar's decision to return its ambassador to Baghdad as another positive step in the right direction. The writer described Qatar's decision as a very wise one and a brave move which, he said, should be followed by other Gulf states.

Referring to the peace process in Washington, Taber Al Udwan said in Al Dustour that a year has elapsed since the start of the Middle East process in Madrid and nothing has been achieved.

Furthermore, said the writer, the peace process did not stop the intifada, but rather fuelled it, because it seems to many that the talks will achieve nothing.

The writer, who made an assessment of the process, noted that the biggest failure was that the United States thus far has not honoured its commitment towards making the peace process achieve results and because the Bush administration had pledged to bring about autonomous rule to the Palestinians within one year of the start of the process.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Rai's daily, said that the Israelis are not inclined to have peace at all because through their continued aggression by land, air and sea on Lebanon and the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, they are blocking any deal.

The writer said that the Israeli leaders are filling the world with statements about their claims of desiring peace with the Arabs but on the ground they are committing atrocities at will.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Palestinians were wrong to give up their earlier demands for full sovereignty in an independent state and were wrong to attend the peace negotiations.

He said any announcement about a deal with the Israelis over self-rule can only mean moving away from U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

About the recent Israeli incursions in Lebanon, following the resistance activity, Al Dustour said that Israel was escalating tension in the region

through its repeated shelling of civilian population centres. The paper said that these acts of aggression are bound to adversely affect the ongoing peace process.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi said in Al Rai's daily that resistance to occupation is quite natural and the ongoing peace process is not a condition for the Arabs to stop their armed struggle. The writer said that the negotiations have proved futile so far and the Arabs have no alternative but to follow up their efforts by all means available to them to regain their lands and their rights.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Rai's daily, said that ministries are showing increasing failure in dealing with many outstanding issues facing the nation.

The writer said that assurances, in statements given by ministers, that everything is alright are far from reflecting the truth. He said that it is true that the prime minister is spearheading very serious efforts towards improving conditions in the country, but the ministers themselves have a serious responsibility towards executing their tasks in an efficient manner.

Mohammad Subeishi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that two companies developing the southern coast of Aqaba are monopolising the zone, making it impossible for ordinary Jordanian citizens to enjoy a vacation there. He said that Jordanians can not afford the prices in the port city, which is becoming more expensive every day.

The columnist also drew attention to the inconvenience caused by the pollution created by the trucks passing out of and into the port, noting that many government agencies are failing to do anything to remedy the situation.

Taber Al Udwan tackled the fire arms issue and said that the time has come for the Jordanian community to realise that carrying fire arms can by no means reflect civilisation.

The country enjoys security and stability and the Armed Forces, the security and the police departments are capable of ensuring this situation, the writer said. He said that many citizens have not only been in possession of fire arms but were recently using weapons on various occasions. He said that a few isolated dispute among citizens, have resulted in the use of fire arms and the death of innocent victims.

In global village, TV is lingua franca

By John Lippman

LOS ANGELES — Nearly 30 years after the Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase "global village" to describe how the electronics revolution was shrinking the world and shortening the time between thought and action the Media Millennium is at hand.

TV sets are more common in Japanese homes than flush toilets. Virtually every Mexican household has a TV, but only half have phones.

More than half of Americans alive today may not remember a time without TV in their home. They're surprised if someone doesn't have 25 or 30 channels to choose from. But for much of the globe, television is still relatively new, and changing fast. Today, there is hardly any spot on Earth untrammelled by a satellite "footprint" — the area, sometimes spanning continents, within reach of signals from its parabolic antennas.

The rapid inroads of satellite-based "borderless television" are changing the way the world works, the way it plays, even the way it goes to war and makes peace. Even countries that have long limited what their citizens can watch on nationalised TV are slowly being forced to relax their vice-like grip.

Madonna writhes on MTV videos around the world. A deputy police chief of Moscow is distracted during an interview by Super Channel, a British cross between MTV and "Entertainment Tonight," which blares incessantly in many Russian homes and offices. Dozens of pan-European satellite channels, beaming everything from highbrow French talk shows to Dutch pornography, trespass national borders without visas. "Los Simpsons" becomes a top-rated TV show in Colombia and Argentina.

Consider: More than 1 billion TV sets now populate the globe, a 50 per cent jump over the last five years. The number is expected to continue growing by 5 per cent annually, and by more than double that in Asia, where half the world's population lives.

Worldwide spending for television programming is now about \$65 billion, and the tab is growing by 10 per cent per year, according to Neal Weinstock, media project director for the New York research firm Frost and Sullivan Inc. TV programmes are a major U.S. export now worth about \$2.3 billion annually.

The number of satellite-delivered TV services around the world is more than 300 and climbing rapidly, says Mark Long, publisher of the World Satellite Almanac. Truly global "super channels," such as MTV reach hundreds of millions of households, while CNN is seen in 137 countries.

Scores of new communications satellites are planned for launch in the next five years, which will

mean a huge jump in the number of space-borne TV channels.

The cultural, political and economic effects of this global television revolution are enormous. Whether in the situation room at the White House or in living rooms at home, it is clear to viewers that television is no longer simply a limp witness to history.

Television is how most people now experience history, as happened when viewers watched live satellite pictures of Scud missiles during the Gulf war. Conversely, history is now shaped by television, a reality eloquently symbolised by East German youths when they hoisted MTV banners over the Berlin Wall as it was torn down.

The Oxford political scientist Timothy Garton Ash dubs television "the third superpower" whose influence will only grow as satellites and cable revolutionize its content.

"More than half of Americans alive today may not remember a time without TV in their home. They are surprised if someone does not have 25 or 30 channels to choose from. But for much of the globe, television is still relatively new, and changing fast."

A complex set of problems and issues arise from that power. Mr. Ash warns that borderless TV threatens to make even more painfully obvious the economic gap between rich and poor nations. Diplomats in Libya contend that television is undermining the regime of Moammar Gadhafi by tempting the country's relatively poor and otherwise largely sheltered population with the consumer product delights seen in Italian commercials.

Even more alarming to some is the prospect of a world full of couch potatoes. The French now spend more time watching TV than working. Spanish schoolchildren watch more than their American counterparts.

Some worry that all the TV watching will make the rest of the world lose its appetite for reading, as has already happened to two generations of Americans.

With satellites beaming down literally hundreds of TV channels over the continents and oceans, countries lose control over the information crossing their borders — an unstoppable migration of ideas, images and culture that raises basic questions about the meaning of national sovereignty in the modern world.

"The nation-state is less and less able to control what goes in

and out of it," said Everette E. Dennis, a media scholar and executive director of the Freedom Forum Media Studies Centre. "It really makes customs and other nuances from the past kind of irrelevant."

Many of the new channels are being financed by advertising generated from an increasingly industrialised world looking for new outlets for its consumer and manufactured goods. In Europe, TV advertising is expected to more than double to \$36 billion by the turn of the century. The Pacific Rim's nascent TV ad market, still emerging from years of heavy-handed government regulation, has already reached \$14 billion. With worldwide satellite networks, global advertising is finally a reality.

Like ambitious states that want to join the nuclear club, a country today barely ranks as a world-class power unless it lofts a satellite bearing its own acronym: Asiasat, Aussat, Turksat, Thaicom, Arabsat, Insat, Indonesia's Palapa and Spain's Hispasat. To name but a few.

"It's frequently a question of political sovereignty, not just economic rationality," said Mehroo Jussawalla, a research economist with the East-West Centre in Honolulu. "Each country wants to control its own satellite system for domestic purposes."

Even more than on politics, however, the greatest influence of satellite television is on culture. Whereas it used to take decades or centuries for one culture to seep into another, television today can spread lasting images in a matter of seconds.

"Foolish programmes coming in foreign languages to our cable television stations are as much a danger to us as some attacks on our frontier," threatening Israel's culture, heritage and language, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said not long ago.

Occasionally, the attempts to block these images are comical. On Egyptian TV, which abides by strict Islamic code, kisses on returns of "Dallas" and "Falcon Crest" are edited out after the first split-second smooch. Even that's too racy for neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which protests that viewers in Jidda can receive the Egyptian TV signals and people in the south can watch Yemen's televised Parliament.

Satellite dishes "bring in all kinds of evil and corruption," said Saudi Arabia's chief Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Baz, who ruled that the dishes violate tenets of Islam.

Neither quotas nor religious edicts are likely to slow the onslaught of borderless television. Rather than homogenising the world, it is likely that the revolution will instead lead to a greater diversity in programming, especially as developing states become more sophisticated in the use of the medium — Los Angeles Times.

Israel upbeat, Arabs see little progress

(Continued from page 1)

at the formula met longstanding Israeli demands for direct negotiations without preconditions.

"Still, a year ago, I didn't think we would have a new government that talks explicitly about needing land to Syria," Mr. Amir complained in a reference to Mr. Rabin.

The chief Palestinian negotiator Thursday declared "there is possibility of peace" in the Middle East unless the United States assumes a larger role in latest talks.

Accusing Israel of blocking U.S. intervention, Haidar Abdulafi warned there were "all kinds of possibilities," including hunting violence if the talks do not lead to a settlement.

The Palestinian negotiator spoke at a joint news conference with other Arab negotiators as an day surrounding the Nov. 3 American presidential elections.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said the United States intervened "in a territorial manner" in the war against Iraq and asked "so why not in Palestine?"

Mr. Allaf, the chief Syrian negotiator, said only minimal progress was achieved in the negotiations.

Israel always says the Arabs never miss an opportunity to miss opportunity," Mr. Allaf said. "It's time it's Israel that is missing an opportunity." (see page 2)

The current round has not produced agreement on any major issue, only near-agreement between Israel and Jordan on an agenda to guide discussions when they resume Nov. 9.

Israel Television interpreted the agenda as a document and said Thursday that Israel and Jordan would be asked to prove a document stating their willingness to sign a peace treaty.

The pronouncement by the wester of the Hebrew word "ask" was similar to the word "meet," causing initial confusion about whether a high-level Jordanian-Israeli meeting was planned.

Associated Press and other news organizations say that no meeting was planned.

The Jordanian willingness to sign a peace treaty with Israel was mentioned on working out a

number of disagreements between the two sides. These likely would include Jordanian territory under Israeli occupation and refugee problems and security issues.

The Israeli and Jordanian negotiating teams apparently showed the document of intent to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian Wednesday, the television said.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher said in Washington on Wednesday that an agreement with Israel on an agenda may be at hand. "The gap has been largely bridged," he told reporters.

Elyakim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team meeting with Jordan, told reporters on his return to Israel Thursday the two delegations were close to completing a document setting an agenda "that will end in a peace agreement."

The document outlines security, water, refugee, border and normalization issues "with the indication in some of the issues also in the direction of a solution," Mr. Rubinstein told Israel Television's Arabic newscast.

Meanwhile Arab negotiators urged the U.S. administration to help gain concessions from Israel, and the top State Department official encouraged White House Chief of Staff James Baker to resume his Mideast shuttle diplomacy after the presidential election.

"I think it would be great if he did," Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Wednesday. "I think he could make a big difference."

Mr. Eagleburger, who took over from Mr. Baker when he shifted to the White House to run President George Bush's reelection campaign, told reporters, "I don't know whether it's going to happen or not... it wouldn't bother me if he did."

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said the United States should be "more of a driving force, a peace broker" when the negotiations resume.

Mr. Allaf said the United States "might be invited to help" if Israel continued to link security issues to territorial withdrawal.

He accused Israel of distorting U.N. Security Council land-for-peace resolutions by tying security measures to any pull-back from the Golan Heights. He said a deadlock had set in.

Israel, Hizbollah exchange threats

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli-Lebanese border," he said. Mr. Lubrani headed Israel's delegation to the seventh round of Middle East peace talks in Washington which ended Wednesday.

"We will make sure nothing will threaten the security of this area," he said at the headquarters of Israel's surrogate militia in the town of Marjayoun, eight kilometres north of Israel.

Mr. Lubrani said Israel was behind Hizbollah attacks on Israeli forces and accused Syria and Lebanon of doing nothing to stop them.

A senior Bush administration official Thursday linked Iran to a bomb ambush by Hizbollah that killed five Israeli soldiers and prompted the reprisal raids by Israeli forces into Lebanon.

"There is one country that is important, Iran, that has made it abundantly clear it is opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process and Hizbollah is one of its instruments," the official told reporters at the State Department.

"If you look at Hizbollah's agenda, it is violently opposed to the peace process," said the official, who insisted on anonymity.

While linking Iran to the attack, the official said most of the other Middle Eastern governments support Arab-Israeli peace talks and many are actively involved. Iran, he said, is the one important exception.

"Iran supports Hizbollah; the connection is evident," he said. The fundamentalist group has taken root in areas of Lebanon.

While the country is under considerable Syrian influence, the official said the United States has no evidence that Syria was involved in the attack.

"When I talk about extremists, certainly Hizbollah is not alone,"

he said. "There are other groups in the region that are opposed to the peace process and who advocate extremist means to try to overturn it."

Arabs say contacts with Israel premature

(Continued from page 1)

a working group on Jerusalem and human rights. Israel boycotted the first round of multilateral economic talks in

Brussels in May when the Jordan-Palestinian delegation included a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

This time, the top Palestinian on the Jordan-Palestinian team is businessman Zein Mayasi, who lives in Europe. His attendance marks a step forward, since Israel until recently refused to negotiate with Palestinians living outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Mayasi is not a PNC member.

The conference, held behind closed doors, heard a Japanese proposal to develop tourism, French proposals for communications, European Community suggestions for business exchanges and an Egyptian proposal for a regional bank.

Palestinian delegates said they hoped the organisers and backers of the forum, especially the United States, the United Nations and the World Bank, would help

develop the economy of the occupied territories pending a full peace settlement.

The official head of the Palestinian side of the Jordan-Palestinian delegation, Youssef Al Sayegh, who is linked to the PLO, was absent.

The Palestinian delegation included six people from the occupied territories and three from outside, including Mr. Mayasi. Syria and Lebanon stayed away but Arab states present included Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia as well as Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Yakov Frankel, head of the Israeli delegation and president of the Bank of Israel, said in a speech to delegates that the Middle East cannot avoid regional economic cooperation of the kind today in Europe, North America and Asia.

"Joint cooperation between the peoples of the region could be the decisive factor" in regional stability and "lasting peace," Mr. Frankel said. "Economic boycotts are therefore counterproductive economically and utterly non-consistent" with the peace process, he said.

Both Israel and the Palestinian delegation said the multilateral process was inseparable from the higher-profile bilateral peace talks.

"Palestinians could gain some advantages in these talks," a Palestinian source told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity. "There could be some direct trade, especially agriculture, between Palestinian territories and the EC and Arab countries."

The Palestinian statement said, however, that "it is not possible to engage in comprehensive and integrated development while the Palestinians do not possess economic decision-making power."

It listed as goals a development fund for Palestine to obtain capital for various projects.

WANTED FOR RENT

The American Embassy is seeking one to four bedroom unfurnished apartments and houses for its staff. The size of each type of apartment is specified below in net square meters.

The term net square meters means the sum of the square meters measured from wall to wall of the living room, dining room, bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen, closets, and halls, storage and utility rooms and stairs are excluded from the calculation.

Number of bedrooms	Net square meters
One	83 to 92
Two	119 to 132
Three	174 to 191
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ing Hassan ends Middle East visit

(Continued from page 1)

gress and the diplomats said they expected this to come to a conclusion within six weeks or so.

For official say Arab mediation is needed to ease way for progress in the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations.

ch have made little headway in their launch in Madrid a day ago Friday.

they believe that Arab negotiators need solid backing from

the rest of the Arab World to make the compromise necessary for deals at the bilateral talks with Israel.

Regional media have been full of speculation about a blueprint for peace that King Hassan was supposed to have been canvassing during his tour.

The reports have been lacking in detail and the diplomats said the king was keeping his cards very close to his chest and little had leaked out about his plans.

Group works against 'death squads'

(Continued from page 1)

tr questionable circumstances in chases, Binalem says. Palestinians have accused them of shoot-to-kill policy, which army has denied. Army raids have said the undercover

are subject to the same rules as regular troops, who shout a warning and fire in air before shooting at a suspect.

Army spokesman's office said Yesh Gvul of trying to the army's image with a "sided and accusatory" and called the move a "move to the military."

liament member Limor Livni of the right-wing Likud Party Israel Radio that the undercover units were performing an "important job and questioned the ity of Yesh Gvul's actions. think what they are doing is on," she told the radio.

ny are inciting the youngsters to high school against the

army." Nissim Zvili, secretary-general of the Labour Party, also criticised the Yesh Gvul pamphlets, saying the army "must be above political debate," Israel's Itim news agency reported.

Yesh Gvul was formed to assist soldiers who refused to participate in Israel's 1982-85 occupation of southern Lebanon. It has since gained strength with soldiers who have refused duty in the occupied territories.

Still, public support for the army remains very high. Only about 100 Israeli soldiers have been jailed for refusing to serve or to take specific assignments.

Embattled Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, who has been criticised by hardliners for several recent comments on religious and political matters, came under fire for Yesh Gvul's distribution plans.

But the ministry said it had no control over activities outside of school gates.

Iraq reports first military exercise

(Continued from page 1)

aper of the ruling Baath said in a report Friday on exercise.

sident Saddam has restructured his army since it was reformed last year. According to military reports, the pre-50 divisions have been reformed to around 26 to 28 some 350,000-400,000 men and into seven army corps, corps are deployed below and parallel.

elite Republican Guard of the war with at least five of its eight divisions reorganised.

ough Iraq lost some 3,000 1,860 armoured fighting and 2,150 artillery guns, the International Institute Strategic Studies (IISS) estimate still has around 2,300 T-72 tanks, with lower

quality T-62s, T-55s and T-54s, 2,900 armoured vehicles and more than 1,000 heavy artillery pieces.

Despite allied claims to have destroyed many Scud missiles during the war, Western intelligence reports suggest Iraq may still have some ballistic missile capability.

In the air, Iraq has an estimated 150 to 200 of the estimated 700 aircraft it had before the war still operational.

The IISS says Iraq has about 120 helicopter gunships left from the pre-war force of some 160, mostly German-built BO-105s, Russian-made MI-24s and French SA-316s.

Iraq air defences include some 3,200 guns and significant numbers of Soviet-built SA-6, SA-7, SA-8 and SA-9 anti-aircraft missiles linked to a radar network.

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Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Deutsche Mark	1.5724	1.5758
Swiss Franc	1.5445	1.5462
French Franc	1.3743	1.3776
Japanese Yen	5.2385	5.2498**
European Currency Unit	1.2725	1.2685**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	5.50	5.50	5.81
Deutsche Mark	8.12	7.31	6.68	6.31
Swiss Franc	8.87	8.81	8.97	7.68
French Franc	6.00	6.06	5.95	5.77
Japanese Yen	9.81	9.75	9.37	8.81
European Currency Unit	5.87	5.75	5.62	5.62

Currency	USD/100	JD/100	USD/100	JD/100
Gold	559.15	6.60	Silver	3.78

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.685	0.687
Deutsche Mark	1.0771	1.0825
Swiss Franc	0.4426	0.4448
French Franc	0.4969	0.4994
Japanese Yen	0.1395	0.1312
Dutch Guilder	0.5562	0.5590
Swedish Krona	0.3933	0.3953
Italian Lira	0.1177	0.1183
Belgian Franc	0.0514	0.0517

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.0335	0.0395
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1853	0.1867
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.7550	1.7790
UAE Dirham	0.1853	0.1867
Greek Drachma	0.3477	0.3525
Cypriot Pound	1.4865	1.5065

Index	27/10/92	Close	28/10/92	Close
All-Share	155.10		154.98	
Banking Sector	116.88		116.54	
Insurance Sector	169.43		169.69	
Industry Sector	204.11		204.27	
Services Sector	221.84		222.16	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.	
Tourists rates will differ from those quoted below.	
One Sterling	1.5700/10
One U.S. dollar	1.2420/25
	1.5335/45
	1.7245/65
	1.3690/700
	31.52/56
	5.1975/2025
	1310/1315
	123.00/10
	5.7720/70
	6.2500/50
	5.8980/9030
One ounce of gold	338.75/339.25

India empowers fund for laid-off state workers

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian cabinet has empowered a national renewal fund to help workers laid off in dying state industries that may finally be allowed to go out of business, a significant step in its radical economic reform programme.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs, meeting late Wednesday, put into operation a fund that will provide tens of thousands of workers unemployment benefits and job retraining, according to an official statement.

The World Bank last year tentatively agreed to give India a \$500 million structural adjustment loan to help finance the national renewal fund and pave the way for closing dozens of creaking factories with bloated workforces.

The cabinet committee decided "to immediately operationalise the National Renewal fund on a non-statutory basis", the statement said.

The non-statutory basis indicates the government does not want to set up the fund through

legislation in parliament, where it would draw vociferous opposition from the powerful left.

India's labour-friendly laws make firing a worker extremely difficult and time consuming. Closing down a factory is next to impossible.

Permission must be sought from state or federal government to go out of business, and they are rarely in the mood to throw voters out of work when there is no social security system.

The National Renewal Fund represents India's first sustainable unemployment benefits scheme, economists say.

The long-delayed labour policy has become a focus test of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's commitment to a second and more painful phase of the reform programme — overhauling the bloated public sector, including the nationalised banking system, diplomats say.

India cannot hope to attract the major foreign investment it seeks for its newly unshackled economy unless it allows companies the freedom to hire and fire and go

U.S. 1992 budget deficit balloons to \$290.2 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. budget deficit swelled to a record \$290.2 billion in the 1992 fiscal year, the government has reported.

The gap for the year that ended Sept. 30 easily shot by the previous record deficit of \$269.49 billion in 1991, only adding to the U.S. status as the world's biggest debtor.

To cover the gap between spending and income, the Treasury Department visits the bond market and issues IOUs that now amount to a whopping \$4 trillion.

Interest on the national debt now exceeds the entire defence budget — and it's not going to get better. The Bush administration has forecast the deficit will grow to \$341 billion in the fiscal year

that began Oct. 1.

Economists say the huge borrowing need forces long-term interest rates up, chokes off private borrowers and slows investment in job-creating enterprises.

Kathleen Stephenson of Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corp. said the budget deficit now amounts to five per cent of gross domestic product — the total measure of national output — up from 4.8 per cent in fiscal 1991.

"That undoubtedly is putting upward pressure on real interest rates," Mr. Stephenson said.

Both President George Bush and Democratic challenger Bill Clinton have touched on cutting the deficit during the election campaign, but independent Ross

Perot has put the issue of growing red ink at the centre of his election bid.

Republican Senator Warren Rudman, who is retiring, and former Democratic senator Paul Tsongas have joined forces to urge action against the ballooning deficit.

Government spending in fiscal 1992 was \$1.38 trillion, up from \$1.32 trillion in fiscal 1991. Total income, mostly from personal and corporate income taxes, was \$1.09 trillion compared with \$1.05 trillion in fiscal 1991.

The annual budget deficit piled up into an accumulated national debt which now totals nearly \$4 trillion and has quadrupled since 1980, when Ronald Reagan took office.

Britain unveils plan to stop economic rot

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's government charted a new course for economic growth which it hopes will steer Britain out of its longest recession since the 1930s.

The strategy, pushing a previous preoccupation with curbing inflation into the background, could help Mr. Major to regain the confidence of his Conservative Party, bitterly divided over his ambitions for European union.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont told bankers and businessmen Thursday that growth was now the priority and government spending would be directed toward job-creating infrastructure projects like railways and roads.

"My priorities will be to promote recovery and the long-term prosperity of the British economy," he said, hinting strongly at further interest rate cuts.

But, while welcoming his indication on interest rates, economists said Mr. Lamont still had to convince them that he had a credible economic strategy and would not let inflation spiral out of control.

"We can all talk tough on inflation when the problem is not there," said economist Ruth Lea of Mitsubishi Bank. "The only way to really achieve anti-inflation credibility is through experience and Britain's record is against it."

Influential newspapers were lukewarm. In an editorial titled "Style but little substance," the Daily Telegraph said Mr. Lamont

should have provided something more substantial "at a time of grave economic difficulties and a serious crisis of confidence."

Britain's economic policy has been in disarray since sterling was forced out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) last month by massive speculation against the pound.

Mr. Lamont said this had been a setback. But a floating pound, lower interest rates and lower inflation — cut to 3.6 per cent from 10.9 per cent in two years — offered a competitive base for growth.

"Lower interest rates supported by sensible public expenditure priorities will put the economy on course for recovery," said Mr. Lamont, who has shouldered much of the blame for the recession and a series of policy set-backs.

The recession is the greatest of

a welter of problems confronting Mr. Major's government. A series of embarrassing policy U-turns, topped by last month's currency crisis and rows over Europe within his party, have badly dented his authority.

Mr. Lamont entered the debate over Europe created by Mr. Major's determination to ratify the Maastricht treaty on closer European Community (EC) economic, monetary and political union.

He said it was vital for Britain to be at the heart of Europe. "We cannot afford to be a country to afford to be left on the fringes while our partners make up the rules," he said.

Mr. Major earlier confronted more than 230 members of parliament in a bid to quell a revolt ahead of a crunch debate of Europe next Wednesday.

"Let us put aside the squabbling and get on with the discussing," Mr. Major told the 1922 committee of backbench Conservatives. "We owe it to ourselves and to the millions who voted for us."

But it is the seemingly endless recession which dogs Mr. Major the most and which underlies the festering dissatisfaction in his party.

Since the currency crisis erupted the government has cut interest rates by a total of two percentage points to 8.0 per cent to try to inspire economic growth. But business and consumer confidence remains at a low ebb.

Kuwait Airways reports \$133m loss

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), devastated by the Iraqi invasion in 1990, made a net loss of \$133 million in the fiscal year 1990/91, a decree in the Official Gazette has said.

KAC posted a net profit of 11.62 million dinars (\$40.1 million) in the year 1989/90, another Emir decree said. The Kuwaiti fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 the next year.

In 1990/91 revenues were 104.62 million dinars (\$360.76 million), compared with expenditure of 143.29 million dinars (\$494.1 million).

In 1989/90 revenues stood at 160.32 million dinars (\$528.8 million), compared with expenditure of 148.7 million dinars (\$512.76 million).

The decrees gave no further details.

The Iraqi occupation, which lasted from August 1990 to February 1991, devastated KAC's operations.

KAC has ordered 11 Airbus A320 jets, four Airbus A340 long-distance jet and three Boeing 747 Jumbo jets as part of a \$1.7 billion investment to modernise the airline and replace planes lost during the occupation.

KAC will take delivery of three Airbus A320 jets next month, its chairman Ahmed Al Mishari has said. He said the airline would receive the A340s and the 747s towards the middle of the decade, bringing its fleet up to 24 aircraft.

Mr. Mishari said this month that KAC expected to be fully operational again in two years.

South African Airways to cut back staff

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's state-run South African Airways (SAA) has said it planned major staff cut-backs to stem losses and boost competitiveness.

An SAA spokeswoman told Reuters the airline wanted to get back into profitability within 12 months and planned to lay off "a large percentage" of its 10,000 staff and ground part of its fleet.

Savings measures would be implemented as soon as possible subject to government approval of the plan, she said.

A number of foreign airlines have started to fly to South Africa

following the lifting of travel sanctions against the country. This has cut deeply into SAA's virtual monopoly of flights to and from the country.

SAA has also been hit by competition at home with the emergence of two new domestic airlines in the past two years.

The spokeswoman confirmed reports that deputy chief executive Mike Myburgh said SAA had launched a three-year rescue plan. SAA incurred losses of

about 200 million rand \$68 million in the last two years.

"This is a significant project and we intend to do something quite radical," Mr. Myburgh was quoted as saying.

He said the plan — to cut as yet unspecified number of staff and to ground or lease some of its 45 aircraft — could begin in December as the airline hoped to make significant savings in the current financial year to end March 1993.

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Bosnian leader threatens to use poison gas Serbs celebrate fall of Jajce

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina on Friday threatened for the first time to use poison gas against Serb attacks, Tehran Radio reported.

President Alija Izetbegovic spoke in an interview with the state-run radio, conducted during a visit to Tehran. The broadcast was monitored in Cyprus.

"If current conditions prevail, and the arms embargo against Bosnia remains in force, the people of Bosnia will be forced against their will to use poison gas in existence in Bosnia to defend themselves and in an effort to stop the crimes of the Serbs," Mr. Izetbegovic was quoted as saying.

Poison gas has not been used by either side in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and it is doubtful that the Yugoslav army left any stocks behind when it withdrew from the state last May and June.

The Bosnians could conceivably produce primitive mustard gas, of the type used in World War I, at a chemical plant in Tuzla.

Iran is believed to possess at least some chemical weapons, and it has been a strong supporter of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But even if the Bosnians were able to obtain chemical weapons abroad, they have none of the delivery systems, such as missiles, planes or large-caliber guns, needed to fire a chemical arsenal.

Earlier this month, a local Muslim leader in Tuzla threatened to roll chlorine-filled tanks to the front and expose them to Serbian fire.

But experts contacted by telephone said such primitive methods, relying on wind to transport the gas, could not guarantee where the poison gases would end up. They said casualties from this method would be too low for it to be an effective war weapon.

Mr. Izetbegovic's threat was seen more as a bluff to slow down an inexorable Serbian advance against Bosnian positions.

The Bosnian head of state arrived Thursday on an unannounced visit to the Iranian capital. He left Friday after meeting with President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

He said in Tehran that his government supports a U.N.-proposed plan to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina into eight autonomous sectors, with defence, foreign policy and banking controlled by a central government.

Serbian leaders, who demand that Bosnia-Herzegovina be divided into three ethnic cantons, have rejected the plan.

Meanwhile Bosnia's Serbs celebrated the capture of the Muslim stronghold of Jajce Friday, tightening their grip on central Bosnia in defiance of international attempts to recreate an ethnically mixed Bosnian state.

The fall of Jajce, 160 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo, gives the Serbs a path across the former Yugoslav republic towards the Serb-held Krajina region in Croatia.

For Muslims, the town's capture spells disaster.

"With this victory, the brave Krajina people have shown once

again how to fight for the freedom and dignity of the Serbian people and that they will not wait in line for European gentlemen to determine borders for them and where they should live," Bosnia's Serb army spokesman Milovan Milutinovic said.

Bosnian radio said street fighting continued around Jajce Friday, adding that Bosnian reinforcements had arrived and were trying to re-establish their lines around the town. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Many Croat fighters who had been defending the town with Muslims escaped on foot across the mountains to nearby Travnik. The Travnik escape route leads Jajce's defenders into an ever-messier conflict where Muslim and Croat allies have turned on each other.

Jajce's predicament reflects what many fear will be the fate of all Bosnia's Muslims as Serbs and Croats carve up the former Yugoslav republic between them, leaving nothing for the Muslims.

International mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have spent the past two days in former Yugoslavia trying to persuade warring factions to accept a formula that would split Bosnia into economic rather than ethnic regions.

Every military setback for the Muslims and the ensuing intensification of ethnic hatred makes that prospect — which the Croats and Serbs have both rejected — seem dimmer.

The vice-president of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Bosnia, Nikola Koljevic, told repor-

ters in Geneva he would consider a land-swapping deal with the Croats under which both sides would give up some territory to the Muslims.

The Muslims are unlikely to be reassured by such a promise. For months they have been victims of "ethnic cleansing" — expulsion and intimidation at the hands of stronger enemies — first by the Serbs and, now in central Bosnia, by the Croats.

The Bosnian Serbs News Agency (SRNA) said Serbs were forming a tight circle around the Muslim-held northern town of Gradacac.

The Bosnian capital Sarajevo was quiet overnight apart from two mortar bombs which fell near the destroyed parliament building just before dawn.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen spent Thursday in the Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo, where they nearly pulled off a coup by persuading Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova to talk directly to local Serb politicians.

M. Rugova, waging a campaign for independence since the loss of Kosovo's autonomy three years ago, shied away from the talks at the last minute. No reason was given.

More fruitful were discussions between military commanders of the warring factions in Sarajevo, the third round of such talks in a week.

Together with U.N. military chief General Philippe Morillon, the commanders agreed to open two "safe" routes for humanitarian supplies — one to a Muslim area and one to a Serb area.

\$500m aid pledged to CIS

TOKYO (R) — Former Soviet republics asked for more after the world community Friday ended a two-day conference that promised over \$500 million in new aid to the struggling states.

"Humanitarian help is very good but it is a drop in the ocean," Georgian Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaide told reporters.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin sounded a similar note. Technical and humanitarian assistance, the focus of the conference that drew 70 countries and 19 international organisations, "will only (be) a very, very small part of the real needs," he said.

More important to Russia, where reformers are battling a bitter challenge by conservative hardliners, are successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for help in rescheduling the country's foreign debt, he told reporters.

The conference ends a three-meeting process that began last January in Washington. Informal working groups co-chaired by key donor nations will be replaced by a more permanent structure in which the World Bank is charged with organising long-term technical aid to the former Soviet Union.

At a closing press conference, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and other key officials pronounced the meeting a success and reaffirmed their collective commitment to helping the 12 new states — the former Soviet Union minus the three Baltic states — make the tough transition from a command economy to democratic capitalism.

The International Monetary Fund has estimated Russia's financing needs at \$22 billion in 1993.

Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger stressed that no matter how much international aid flows to the former republics, the ultimate success of that transition depends on the states themselves.

"In the last analysis, they have to accomplish their own reforms, their own revolution," he said.

Mr. Eagleburger, modifying somewhat previous U.S. statements, said Washington offered \$412 million in new aid, comprising \$260 million in emergency food stocks, \$38 million in excess military food stocks and \$14 million in emergency medical supplies to help the new independent states get through the winter.

Japan promised \$100 million, which Mr. Watanabe predicted would be approved in parliament by the end of the year and delivered in the form of food and medical aid by next March.

Jean-Louis Cadieux, representing the European Community, said nearly \$90 billion has been contributed overall to the former Soviet republics, three-fourths of that by the EC. Germany alone has paid \$30 billion since 1989 for a variety of purposes associated with unification and the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

"None of us can allow for less than total success in this endeavour" to help the new states move peacefully away from communism," Mr. Cadieux said.

Mr. Eagleburger acknowledged that despite the international aid effort reformers are under pressure in many of the former republics, especially Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

He praised Mr. Yeltsin as having taken a "clear and brave stand" in support of reforms and said that while he will have a difficult time for a while, he will succeed.

Meanwhile a leading Tajik politician Thursday said the world was ignoring the bitter civil war raging in his Central Asian republic, and urged Western nations to provide emergency aid to help avert disaster.

ANC attacks deployment of more troops in Natal

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) Friday condemned the deployment of additional South African security forces in troubled Natal province as a "declaration of war" against the ANC's military wing.

"This is not going to help end the violence. It is a declaration of war," Carl Niehaus, a spokesman for Nelson Mandela's black opposition movement, said by telephone.

President F.W. de Klerk Thursday ordered more troops and police into Natal where at least 50 people have been killed in clashes between rival blacks in the past week.

He accused the ANC of moving guerrillas of spear of the nation, the ANC's military wing, also known as MK, into the province from the nominally-independent Transkei homeland.

Mr. de Klerk said the police would "take special additional action to stop the infiltration of MK members from the Transkei."

Transkei military leader Bantu Holomisa, a staunch ANC supporter, has refused to allow international observers into his territory.

Mr. de Klerk renewed an appeal to ANC President Mandela and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to meet and end the escalating feud between their followers.

The ANC Thursday denied its armed wing was stoking the conflict, calling the charge "a smokescreen to cover secret defence force operations in Transkei."

"The context in which Mr. de Klerk was speaking means his statement amounts to a declara-

tion of war against MK and the ANC," Mr. Niehaus said Friday.

Mr. de Klerk was due to meet respected peace mediator John Hall to try to arrange a peace summit of all South African leaders including the two black rivals.

Mr. Hall has met Mr. Mandela twice in the past week and Mr. Buthelezi once in a mediation shuttle aimed at ending violence in Natal and Johannesburg townships in which 7,000 people have been killed in the past three years.

"He's feeling very positive," Mr. Hall's spokeswoman Val Paquet said. "But then again, we have felt positive so often before and then something happens to damage the peace process."

Mr. Mandela says he is willing to attend a summit including Mr. Buthelezi but not a bilateral meeting with Inkatha leader.

Mr. Buthelezi says he is willing to attend a bilateral meeting with Mr. Mandela but says it would be insufficient to end the violence.

The Weekly Mail newspaper said Friday officials of South Africa's National Intelligence Service (NIS) travelled to Mozambique last week to investigate charges that a senior Inkatha official and smuggled guns into Natal from Mozambique.

Pretoria does not comment on NIS activities.

The Inkatha official, a British national, was deported to Britain from South Africa earlier this year but Pretoria declined to give reasons for its decision.

The Mail said there was mounting evidence that groups of armed members of the opposition Mozambican rebel movement had arrived in Natal to give military training to Inkatha.

Prank changes Hollywood sign to "Perotwood"

HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — Hollywood was briefly transformed into "perotwood" as supporters of independent presidential candidate Ross Perot slipped into the hills above Los Angeles and turned tinseltown's famous sign into a giant free campaign sign.

The unauthorised changeover, visible from the busy Hollywood Freeway, may have been responsible for a traffic accident as bleary-eyed commuters caught sight of the landmark sign on their way to work, authorities said.

The publicity stunt showed that the Texas billionaire's Los Angeles followers haven't lost hope even though he trails badly in polls ahead of the Nov. 3 election. Pranksters made the change under cover of darkness, covering the first five letters of the 40-foot-tall (13-metre) Hollywood sign with black and white plastic letters spelling Perot's name. Police scrambled down the hill from above to pull down the letters and search for clues. They said they had not yet found the pranksters.

Judge orders Allen to stay away from daughter

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge has ordered Woody Allen to stay away from his adopted daughter Dylan pending a court hearing in his custody battle with ex-lover Mia Farrow. Allen has denied allegations by Farrow that he sexually abused the 7-year-old girl. State Supreme Court Justice Elliott Wilk also ordered Allen to stay away from Dylan's school, its administrators and its teachers pending the hearing. Farrow's lawyer, Eleanor Acker, said in court papers it would be inappropriate for Allen to try to get information about the child or influence her education "while there are pending investigations of sexual abuse of Dylan."

Allen's spokeswoman, Leslie Dart, said the director was acting as a responsible parent. "What's so terrible about a father being concerned about his child?" she asked. Allen sued in August for custody of Dylan and two other children he shares custody of with Farrow. Soon after, he admitted he was romantically involved with Farrow's 21-year-old adopted daughter, soon-Yi, and that his long relationship with Farrow had ended.

Nessie baffles scientists again

LONDON (R) — A detailed survey of Scotland's murky Loch Ness discovered a strange object moving through the water but no hard proof of a mythical monster, scientists said. Investigators using high-tech sonar scanned Britain's largest lake for a month but came no closer to solving the mystery of the Loch Ness monster. "Before I worked on the lake I certainly did not believe in the Loch Ness monster," said Bob Manson, who works for the sonar company. "But now... I have a very open mind." references to a Loch Ness monster have been made frequently since the first reported sighting in the year 565.

Quayle makes a meal of tossed waffles

FARMINGTON, New Mexico (R) — Frozen waffles are flying through the air on the Dan Quayle campaign trail. The newest political rally ritual — the tossed waffle — has become a staple wherever the Republican Vice President speaks during a tour of eight Western and midwestern states. All Mr. Quayle has to do in a speech is mention that Democratic candidate Bill Clinton is a waffle — someone who speaks incessantly and nonsensically — and the breakfast pastry is thrown by fellow republicans.

Red tape ties up European commissioners

BRUSSELS (R) — Just two months before the EC tears down its internal borders, Jacques Delors, head of the European Commission and an architect of the plan, has found that red tape still rules at the frontiers. A plane carrying Delors, other senior members of the commission and diplomats from a meeting in the French town of Strasbourg back to Brussels was diverted to Charleroi Airport in southern Belgium. There immigration officials held the 60-strong group up for 45 minutes while they checked all passports by hand. The usual procedure is for these officials to be effectively waved through.

Angola rebels accused of airport attack

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government accused the former rebel movement UNITA Friday of trying to lay siege to the capital's airport after at least 15 people were killed in an attack on a Luanda suburb during the night.

Four Portuguese were among the dead, Portuguese diplomatic sources in Luanda told Reuters. The upsurge of violence came after UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who fought a 16-year civil war against the ruling MPLA, disputed the results of September polls which his party lost.

The Angolan News Agency (ANGOP) said a group of 40 UNITA (National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola) men tried to attack the airport.

Government sources told Reuters two planes had been hit on the runway. One plane belonged to the United Nations and the other to a Brazilian construction company, they said.

Residents said at least 15 people were killed in a hall of mortar and artillery fire from UNITA troops in Cassenda suburb near the airport.

Portuguese diplomats in Luanda said three Portuguese men and two Angolans were killed by gunfire in their car, and the other Portuguese died inside his home.

Cassenda residents said shelling started at about 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) and lasted 45 minutes. Ambulances later took away the bodies of 15 people killed in the incident, they added.

Heavily armed and uniformed UNITA soldiers were standing guard in the suburb Friday, residents said.

An Angolan government

source said uniformed UNITA soldiers tried to take over an ammunition dump near Luanda Airport but were repulsed by government troops. He said there were several casualties but gave no details.

Angolan Radio, monitored by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) said UNITA resumed its bombardment of the Huambo police post at 4 a.m. (0300 GMT) and casualties had been reported.

UNITA Radio said government riot police, acting on orders from the deputy interior minister, had fired on UNITA members and sympathisers demonstrating in Huambo Thursday evening.

"The police created a state of general tension in the city of Huambo... small weapons and long-range shells were used," UNITA Radio said.

UNITA Radio said Friday that fighting was continuing in Huambo and the streets were deserted.

The radio called on UNITA supporters to participate in a demonstration in Luanda Saturday morning to express their support for Mr. Savimbi.

Angolan political observers said the call for a demonstration was inappropriate. The population was under a good deal of tension and any small incident at such a demonstration could easily turn into a serious incident, they said.

The Pretoria newspaper New Nation, giving no source for its report, said soldiers of the South African army's 32 Battalion had entered Angola this week "in the apparent anticipation of a resumption of hostilities."

"I categorically deny that as

void of all truth," Mr. Botha, who has engaged in shuttle mediation this month in a bid to avert fresh civil war in Angola, told a news conference.

South Africa and the United States had supported UNITA against the MPLA (Movement for the Total Independence of Angola) throughout most of 16 years of civil war that ended last year.

Mr. Savimbi moved to the central highlands city of Huambo after refusing to accept results of Angola's first free multi-party elections, saying the U.N.-monitored vote had been fraudulent.

International mediators have sought to bring together Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi, who signed a peace agreement in May 1991, to clear the way for a run-off presidential election.

Talks aimed at a peace summit have reached an impasse and increasing conflict between UNITA and MPLA in the past two weeks has threatened to plunge the country back into war.

The government said UNITA forces had also laid siege to the governor's residence in Huambo Thursday and shelled the nearby town of Caala throughout the day, causing many casualties.

Angolan radio said UNITA forces had completely surrounded the major port of Lobito Thursday. The town of Balombo had been occupied and the local police commander killed, it added.

The radio said UNITA had occupied the towns of Jambamba, Chipindo and Cauala in central Huila province.

Euro court rules against Ireland on Abortion data

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European court of human rights has ruled that Ireland violated human rights by barring health clinics from giving women information on how and where to obtain abortions abroad.

The court, ruling on the cases of two such groups, said that Ireland, where abortions are illegal, had violated a right to receive and impart information.

The two groups, Dublin Well Woman Centre Ltd and Open Door Counselling Ltd, were barred in 1988 from providing information on abortions in Britain under an Irish Supreme Court injunction.

This ruling found that giving pregnant women counselling on how to obtain abortions was assisting in the destruction of the life of the unborn, so violating Ireland's constitutional right to life.

The European court, whose rulings are final and binding, awarded Well Woman a total of 125,000 Irish pounds (\$212, 500) in legal costs and lost income, and Open Door 68,985 Irish pounds. In its ruling, the court noted that neither group was involved in encouraging women to travel abroad to obtain abortions, but merely explained available options.

"(Well Woman and Open Door) were engaged in the counselling of pregnant women in the course of which counsellors neither advocated nor encouraged abortions," a court statement said.

It added that information provided could also be obtained elsewhere, from telephone directories or through people with contacts in Britain.

"Without calling into question... the regime of protection of unborn life that exists under Irish law, the court recalled that the injunction did not prevent Irish women from having abortions abroad and that the information it sought to restrain was available from other sources," the statement said.

Bush, Clinton trade attacks as race stays tight

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton are stepping up personal attacks on each other as new opinion polls showed the race for the White House looking increasingly tight.

Mr. Bush Thursday called Mr. Clinton and his running mate Al Gore "boozes" who knew nothing about foreign affairs.

Mr. Clinton said Bush would say or do anything to win.

New polls Thursday raised Mr. Bush's hopes that he could catch Mr. Clinton by election day next Tuesday, after trailing by 10 points or more only last week.

One poll of likely voters by Cable News Network/USA Today/Gallup had Mr. Clinton ahead by 41 per cent to 38 per cent, with independent Ross Perot at 16 per cent. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll had Mr. Clinton leading with 43 per cent to 38 per cent for Mr. Bush, and 15

per cent for Mr. Perot. ABC News had Mr. Clinton nine points ahead of Mr. Bush, 44 per cent to 35 per cent, two points more than its previous poll. Mr. Perot was at 16 per cent.

"My god, millions know more about foreign affairs than these two boozes," Mr. Bush said at a campaign stop in Michigan.

"The only way they (Clinton and Gore) can win is to convince America we're in a recession," he said.

"What's happened here is that things have changed dramatically," Mr. Bush said, predicting victory next week.

Mr. Clinton reacted angrily, saying Mr. Bush's campaign ads were lying about the Arkansas governor's positions on defence, farm policy, the environment and other issues.

"We're going to win this election. I'm always concerned but I think I will prevail," Mr. Clinton

told reporters. "I have always thought I was the underdog but I am going to keep fighting. I am proud of the fact that our campaign has appealed to what's best in America and we're going to slam him home in the next five days about all these incredible, incredible dishonest things he said about my record, my plans and anything that comes to mind."

"The American people must see him for what he is — a desperate person who just wants to hold power and doesn't give a rip about them," Mr. Clinton said about Mr. Bush.

"You've got a guy here who will literally say or do anything to get elected," Mr. Clinton added.

"Anytime you're an incumbent president and you don't have any standards you have a chance to win, especially with Mr. Perot spending anything to get

elected."

Mr. Perot, appearing on CNN's Larry King Live television programme Thursday night, said he could win if he could convince Americans that a vote for him would not be wasted.

"He (Bush) can't win. We're going to win all 50 states," Mr. Perot said. "Governor Clinton and President Bush are not facing our problems," he added.

On Friday, Mr. Bush campaigns in Tennessee, Missouri and Wisconsin while Mr. Clinton visits New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Georgia. Mr. Perot has no appearances Friday but will speak in Florida and Missouri Saturday.

Mr. Bush will also get help from former President Ronald Reagan, who will speak at a Bush rally in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Bush was Mr. Reagan's vice president for eight years.